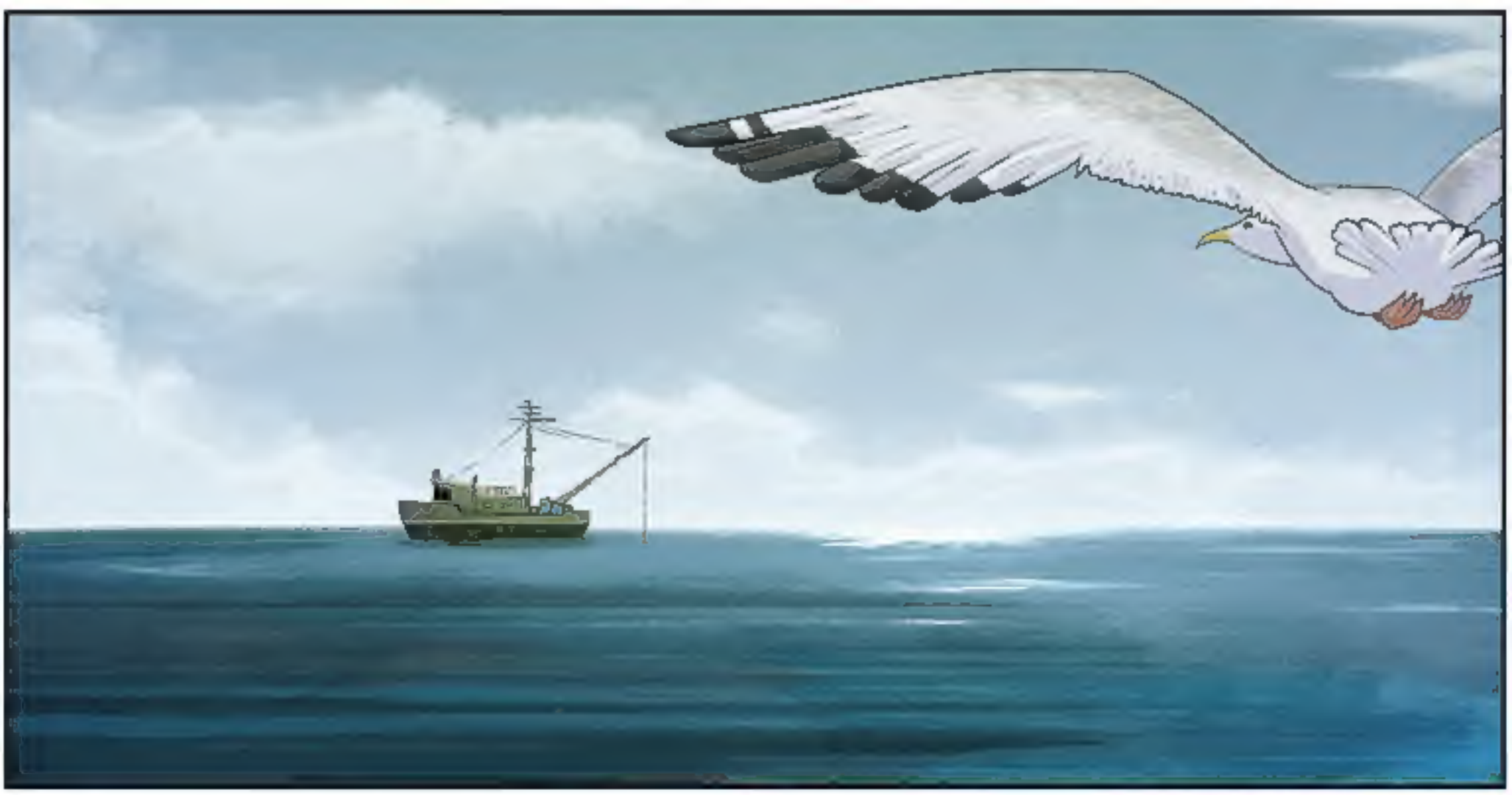
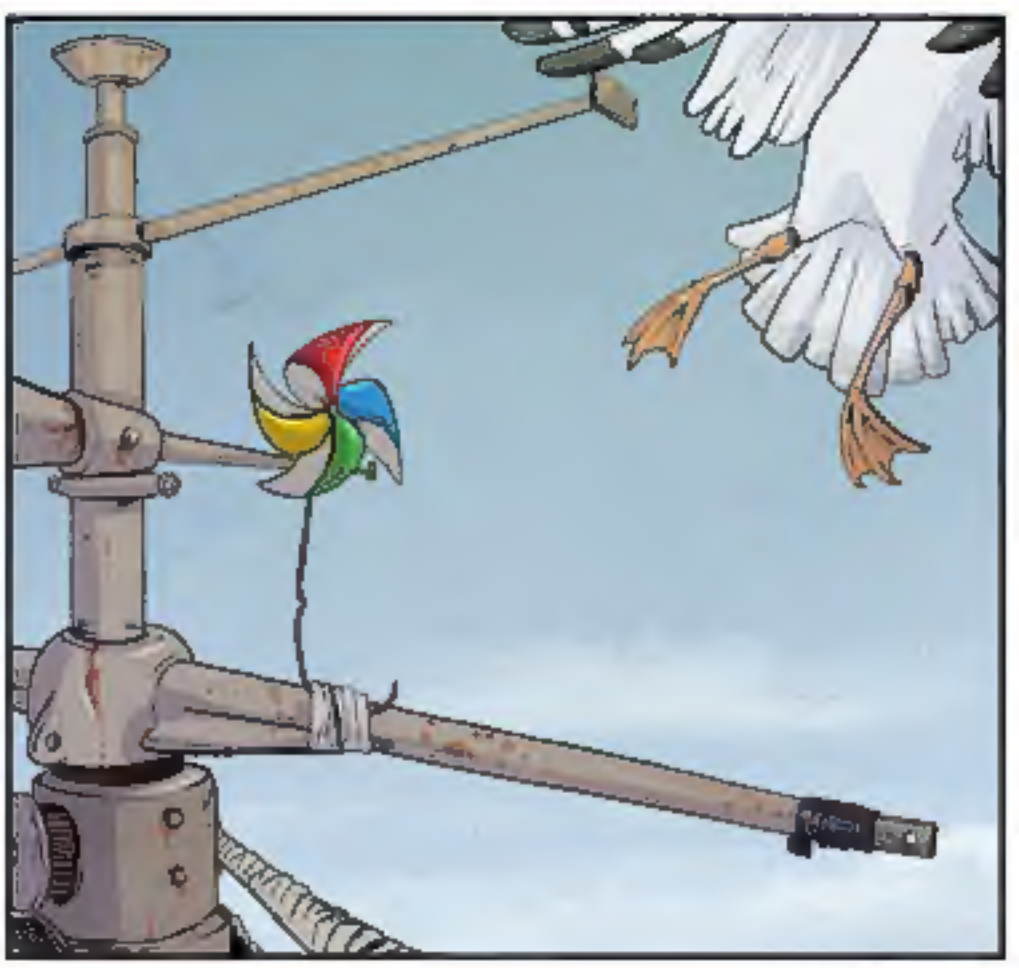
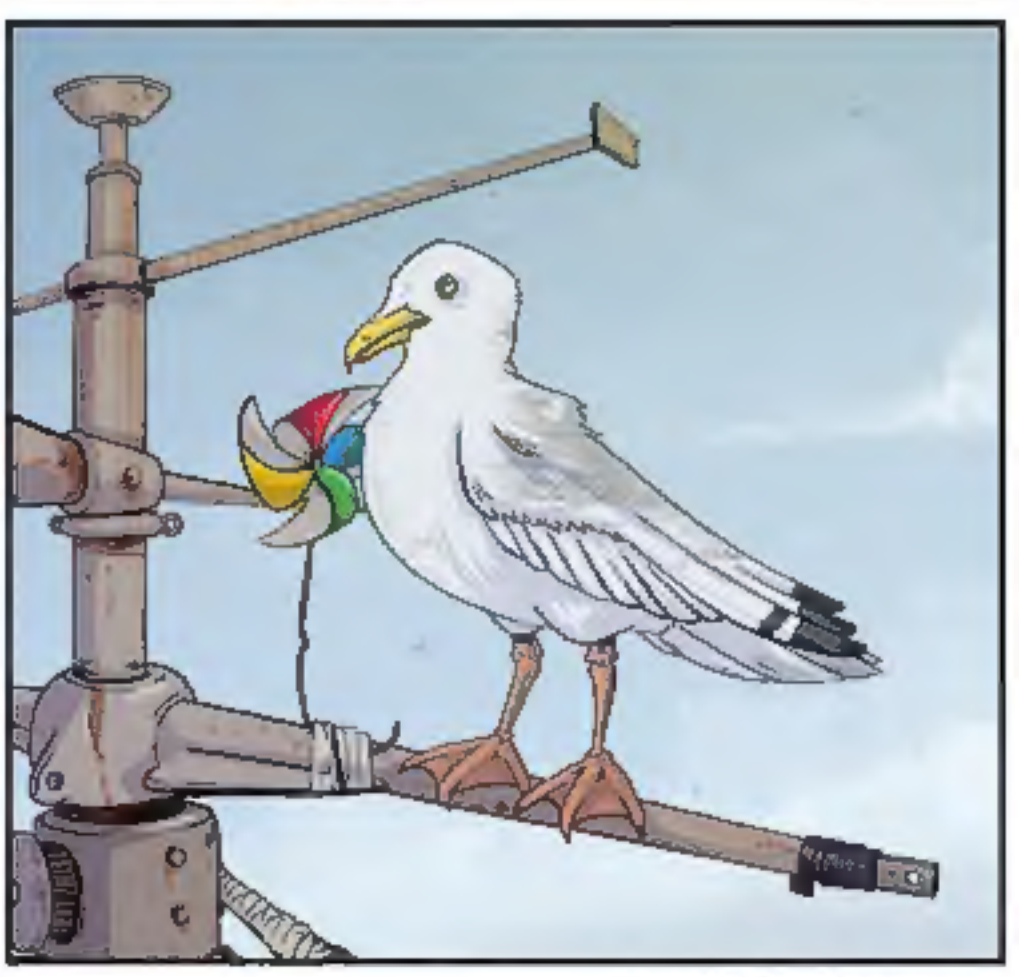
DERELICT

BOOK 1 ~ DELUGE

by Ben Fleuter







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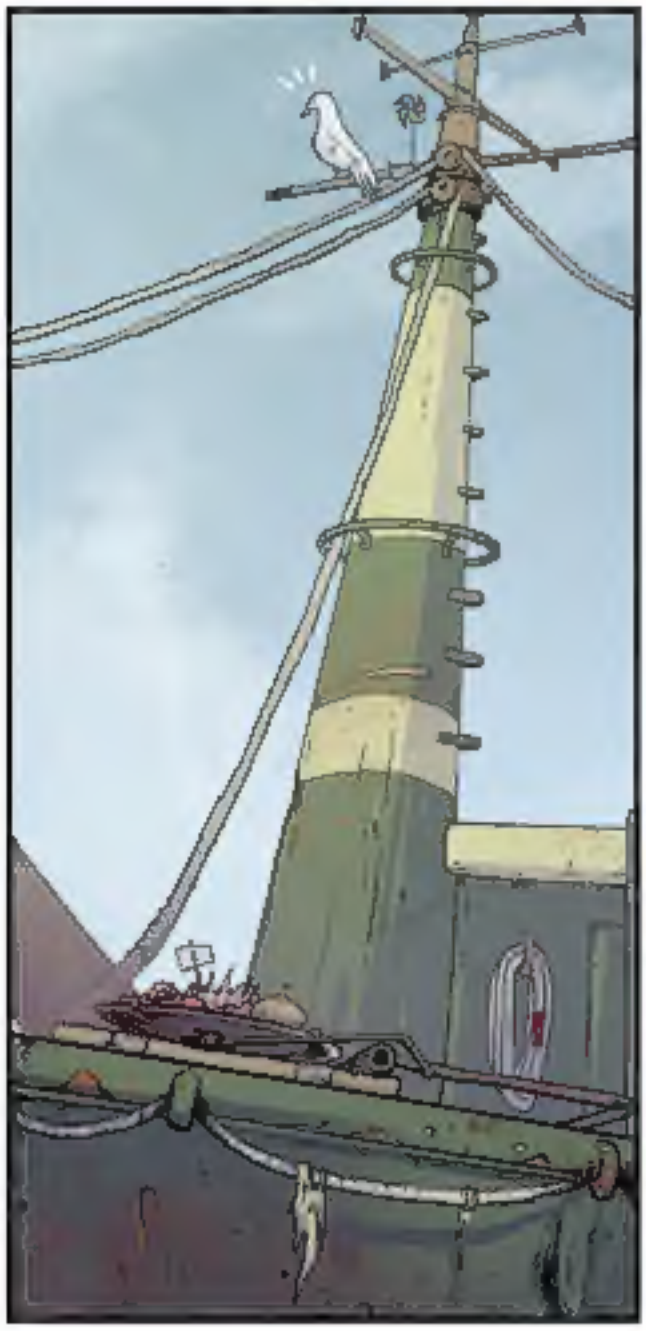

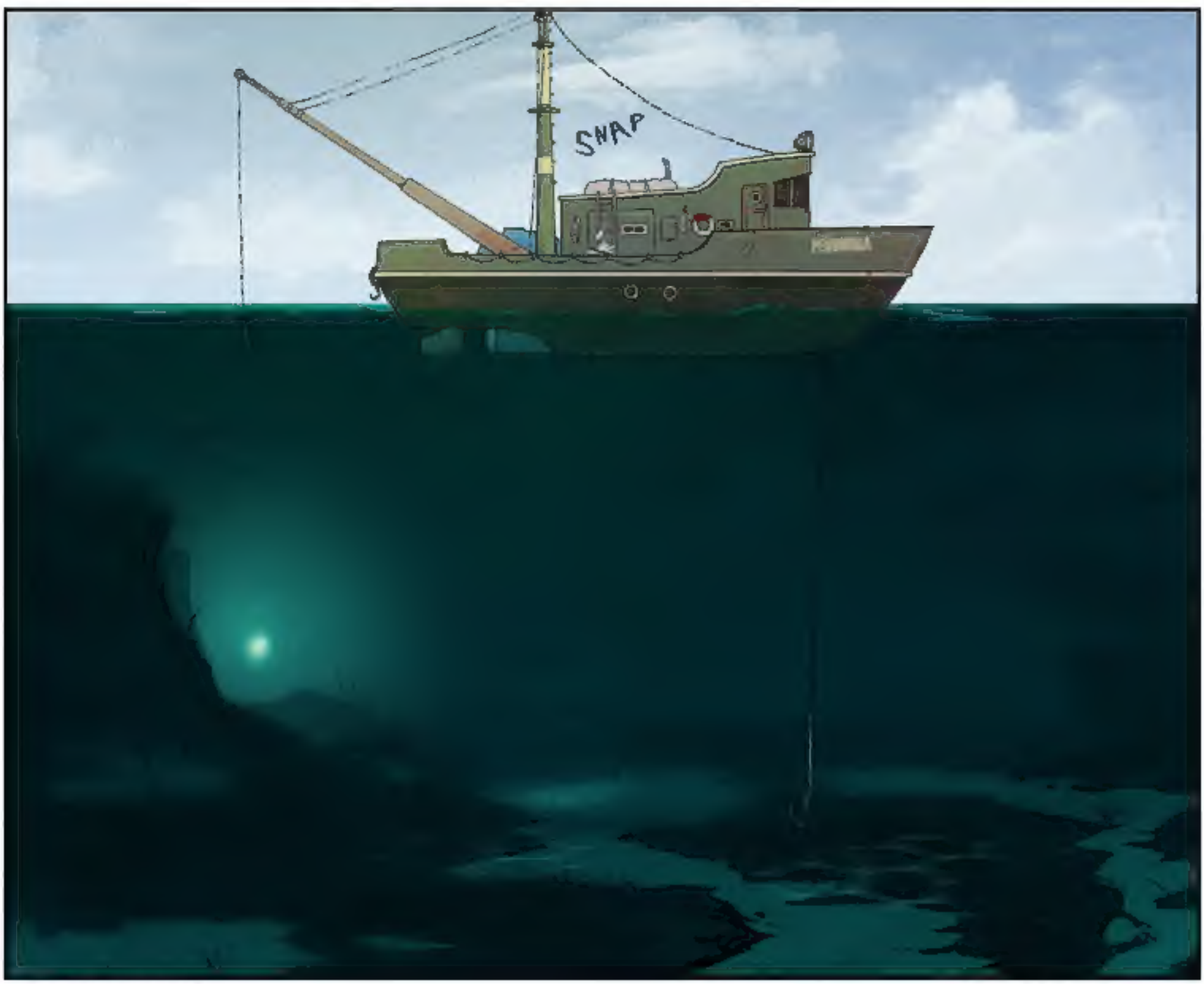

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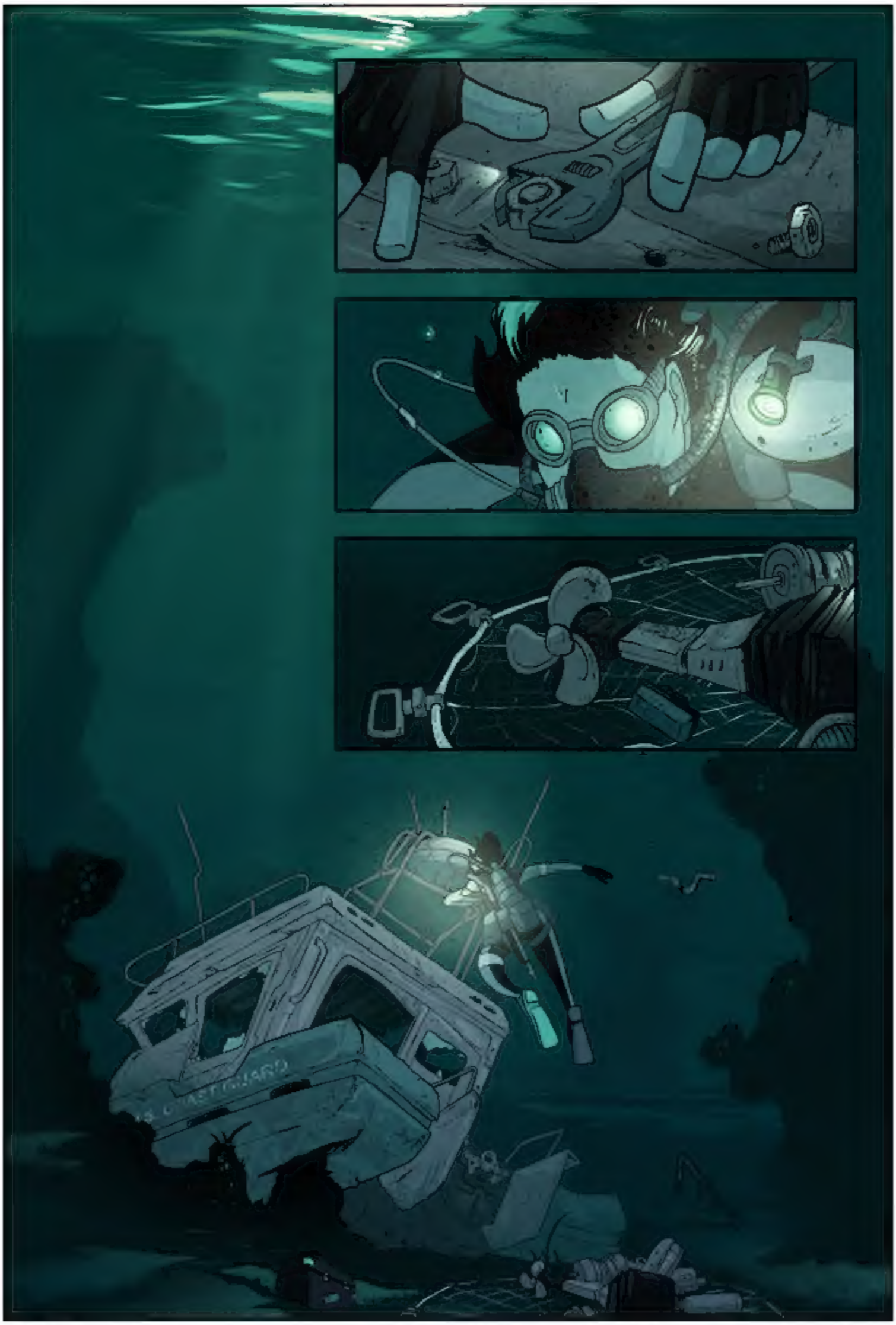

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NG
TP314
X-ING
9MTP314

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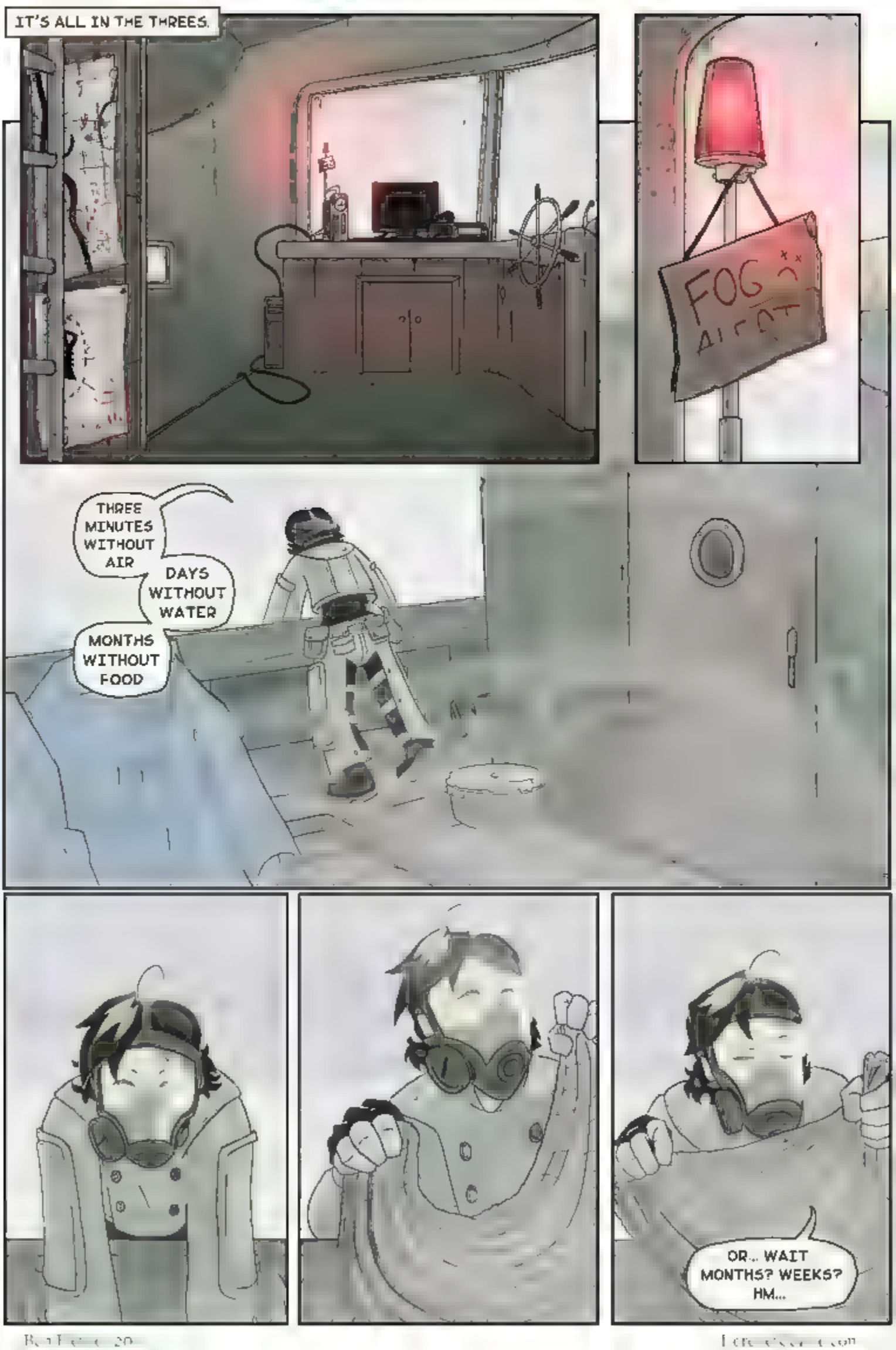
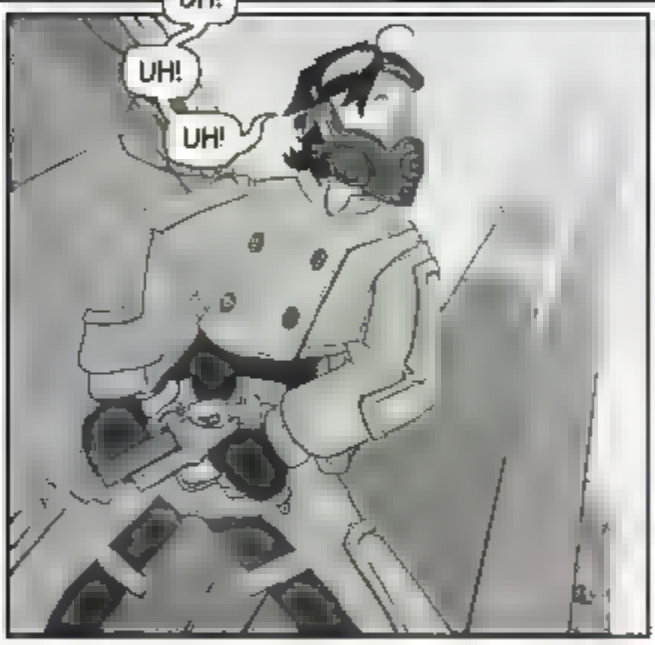
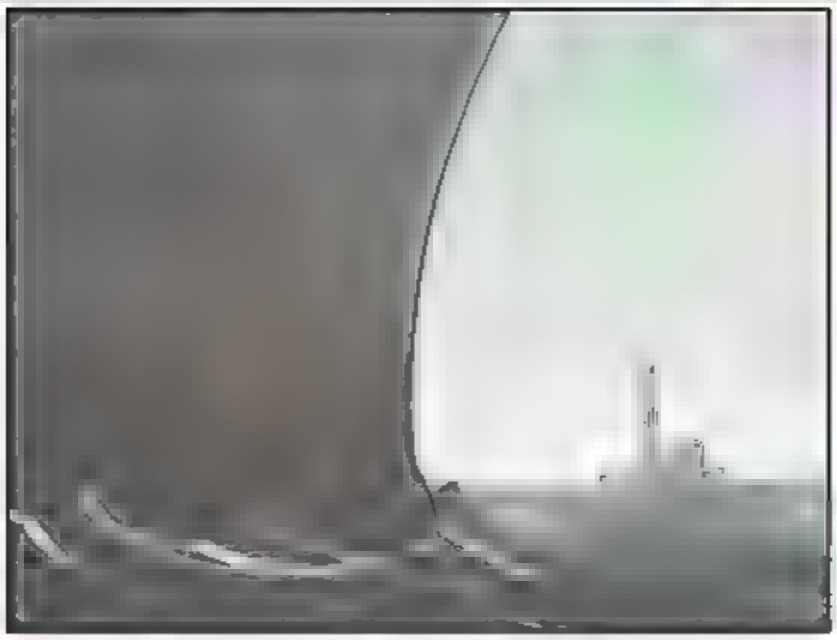
MAAAAAAN...
CRAW!
CRAAAW!
CRAAAAW!!

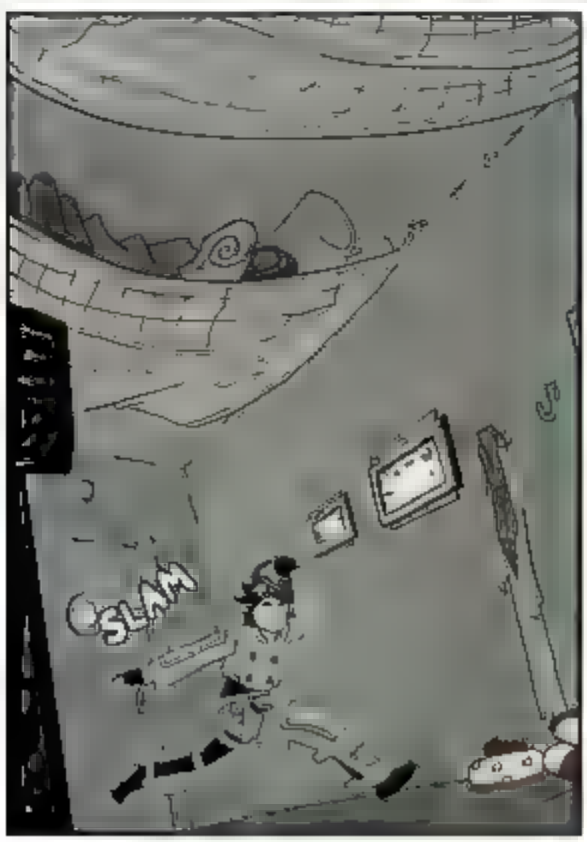
OF MICE AND MEN


IT'S ALL IN THE THREES.
FOG
THREE MINUTES WITHOUT AIR
DAYS WITHOUT WATER
MONTHS WITHOUT FOOD
OR... WAIT MONTHS? WEEKS? HM...

WEIRD, THOUGH.
PIP
PIP
PIP
THE LESS WE NEED SOMETHING, THE MORE THAT DIES FOR IT
WEL.., NOT YOU
I'M NNNAAAH!
SPLOSH
JH..

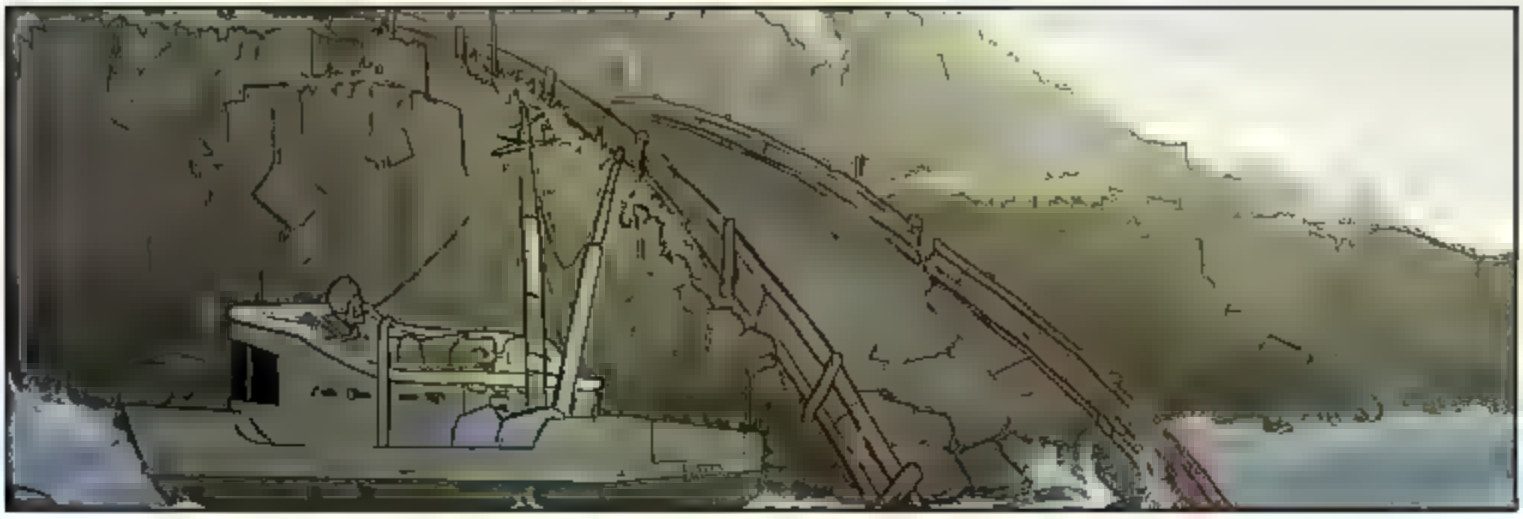

UH!
UH!
UH!

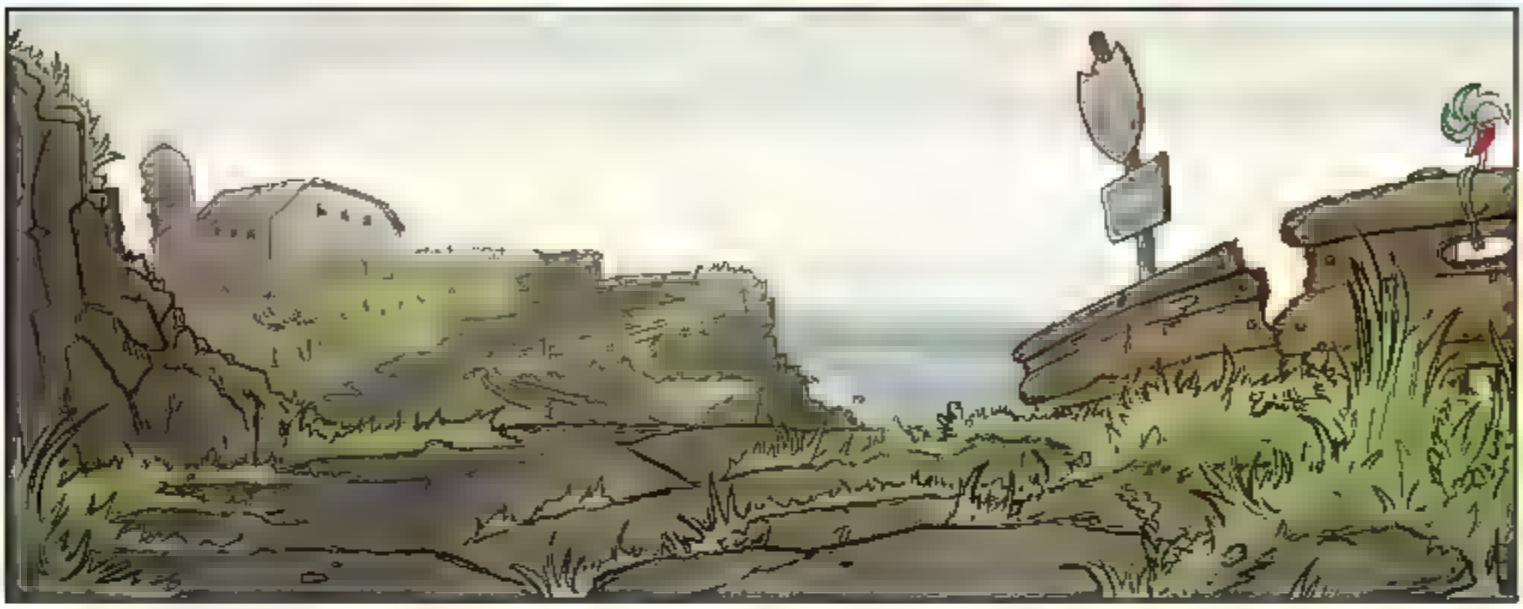


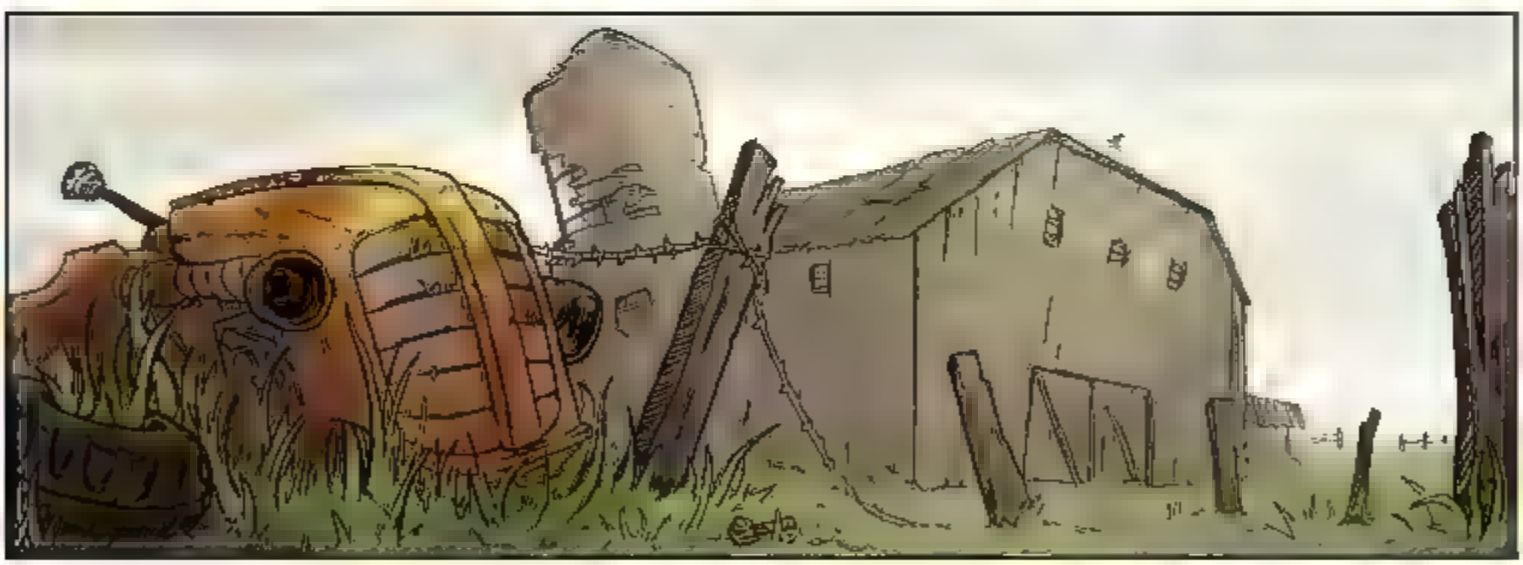

SLAM

TH-THIS IS DANG THJ MAI OF THE, UH, OF THE SALVAGE SHIP PENUMBRA!
YOU'RE JH... YOU'RE FOLLOWING KINDA CLOSE ASTERN! PLEASE SLOW DOWN!
HELLO? A-ARE YOU GETTING THIS? PLEASE SLOW DOWN AND..
HELLO?
FOG
ARHG! STUPID FOG!
KRNCH
AAK!
WHM
SHHKRK
KRSH

BLAM
KRAK
BLAM BAM
TATATATAT







CRAWL

OH!
NICE.

BANG
HNN...
AH!
GRAK
OOOOOOW.
...REALLY?

clik

EVOL
EVOL

SHEE
CH CHAK
Clik
Tk
Tk
Tk

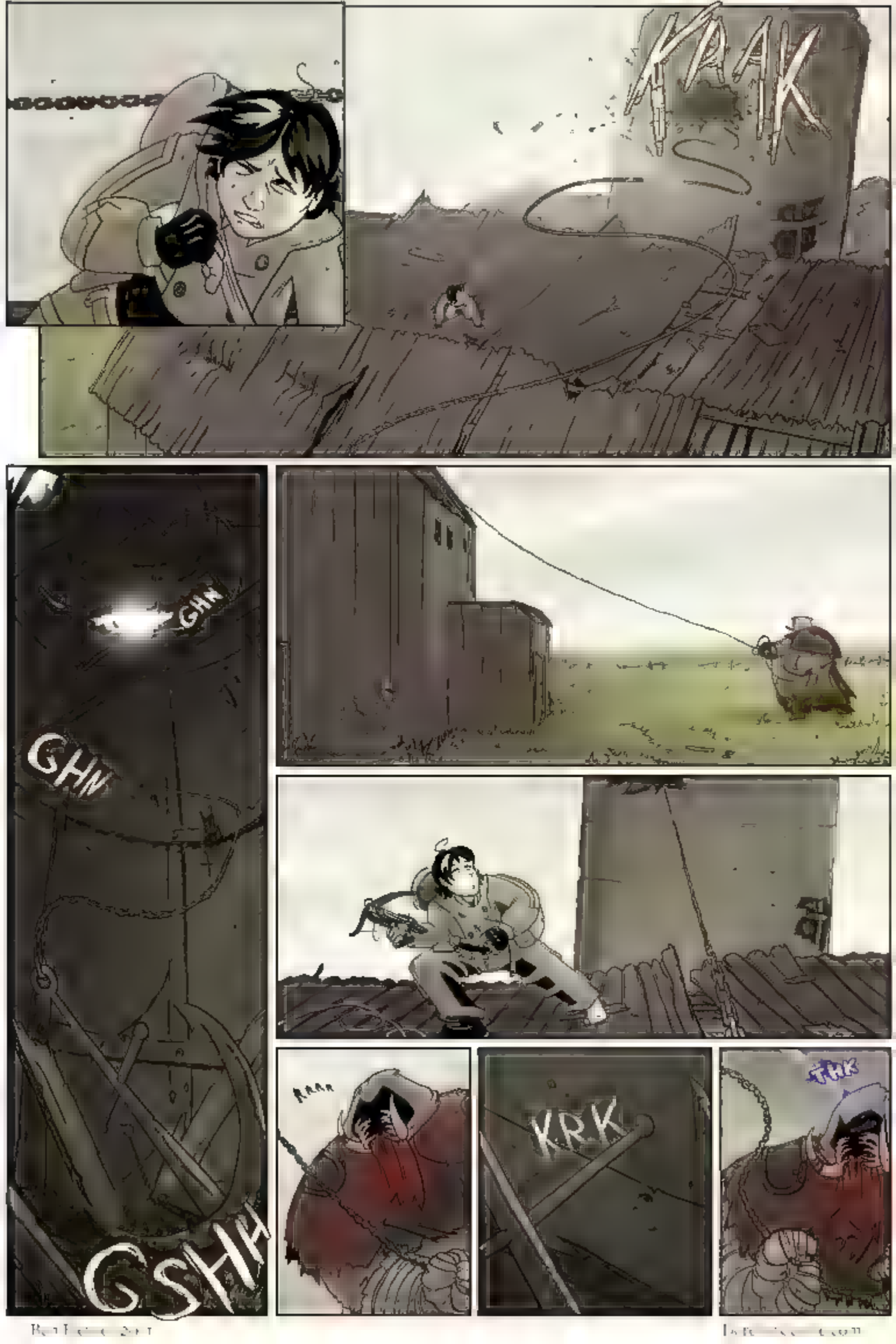
ST-STOP IT! JUST STOP RIGHT THERE!
N-NO! STOP!
I'VE GOT A UV WEAPON! YOU UNDERSTAND THAT?!
UV WEAPON!!
:O!!!
...
OKAY
:O
SAME PAGE HERE
UH... I'M JUST .. JUST GONNA GO...

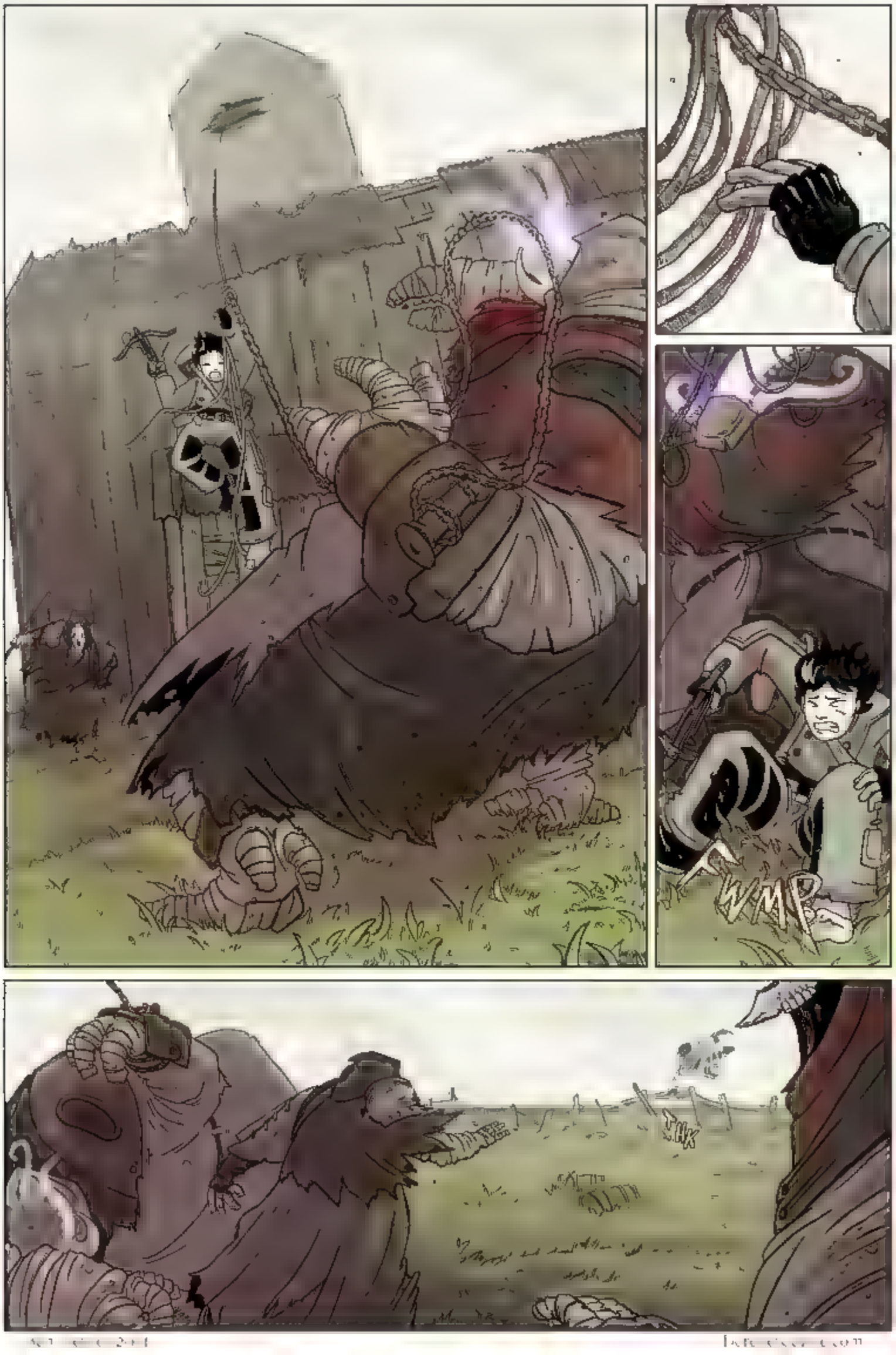
IF I CAN JUST...
UH...
OKAY
RRRRR...

THUK
AAAHHHHH
?!
!
!!!

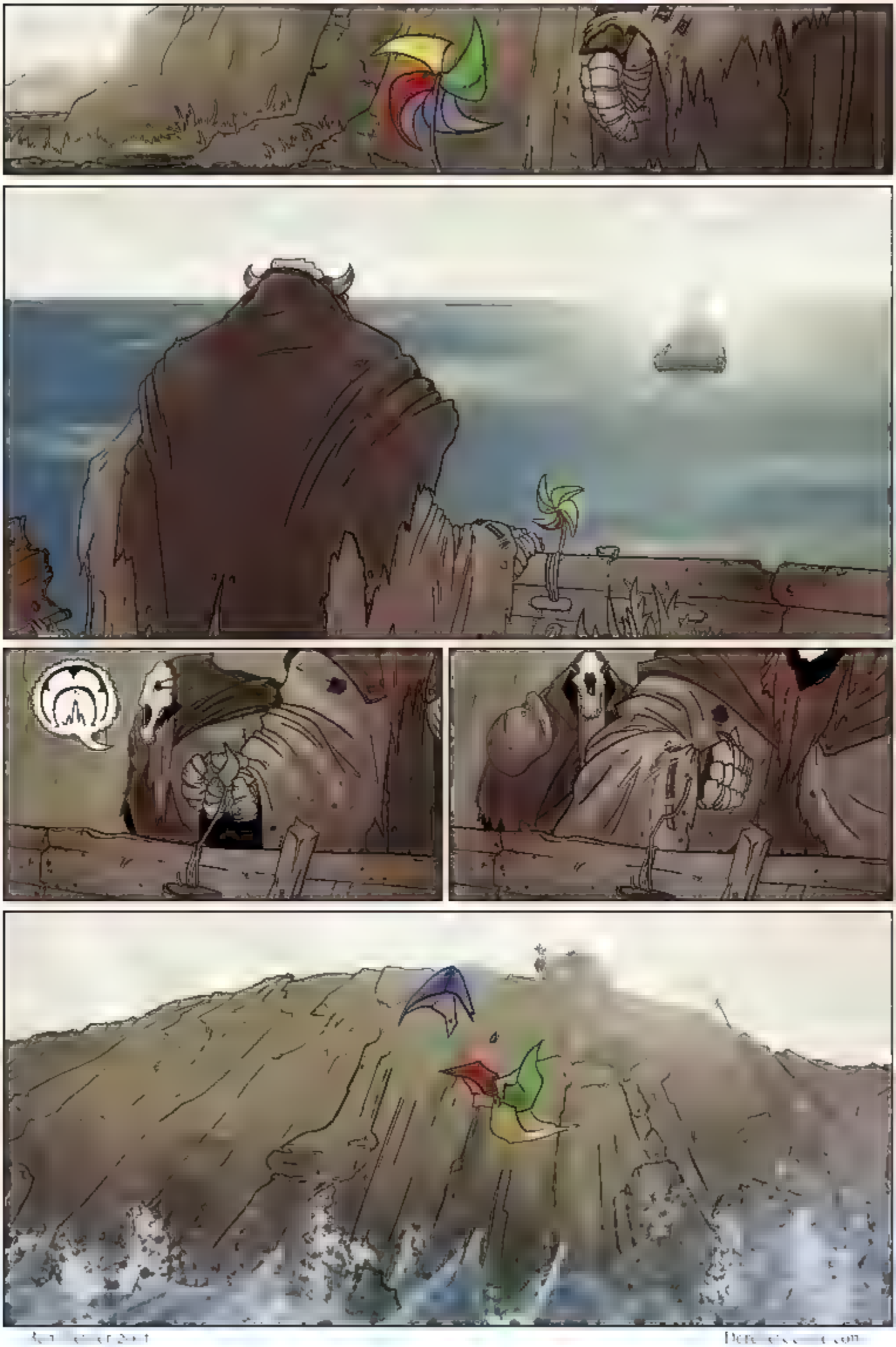
..EARTH HAND?
GNN
K-TAK
HHHHHH.
OH.
IRON HAND

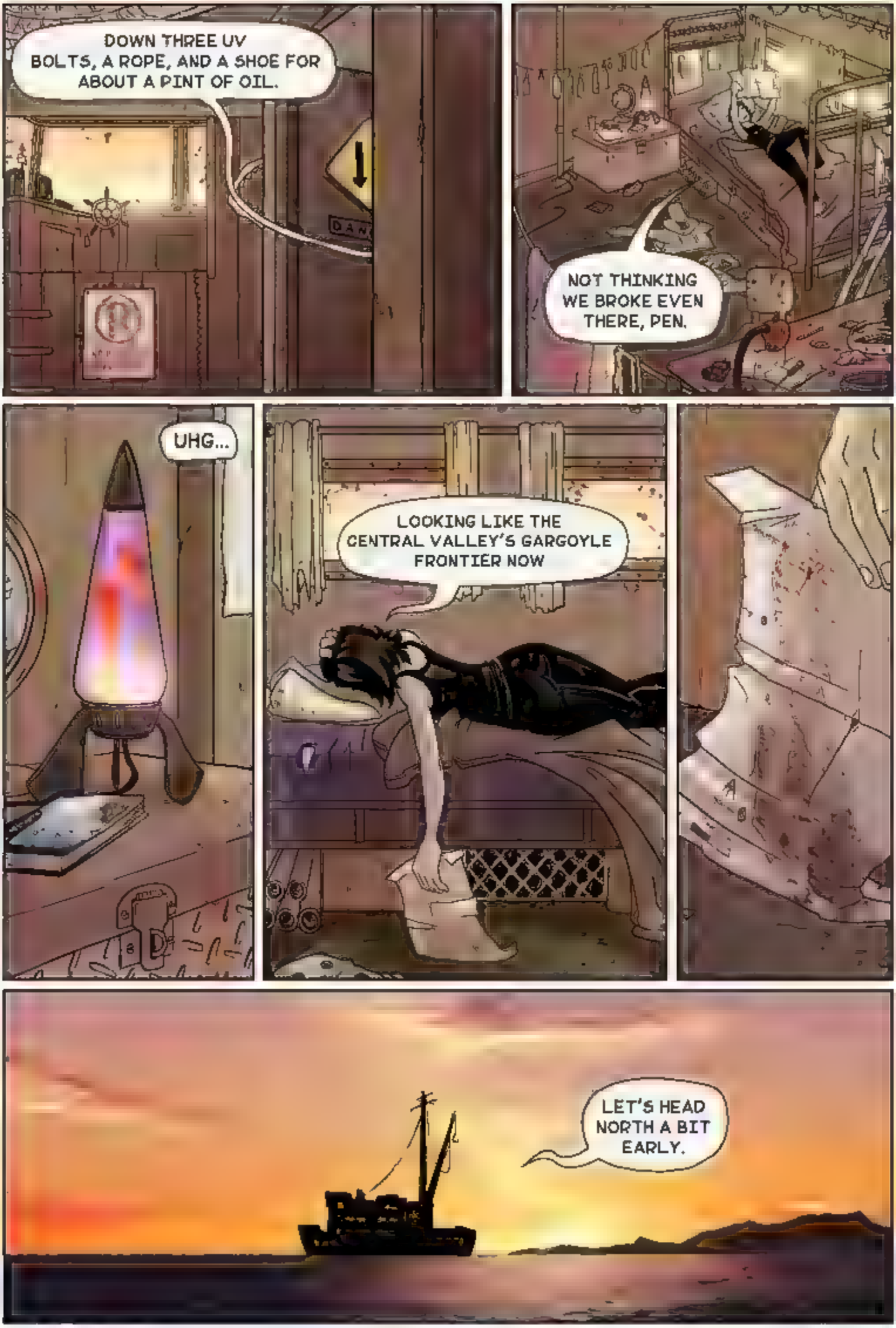
WARRRRRR
!
GNG
CHF

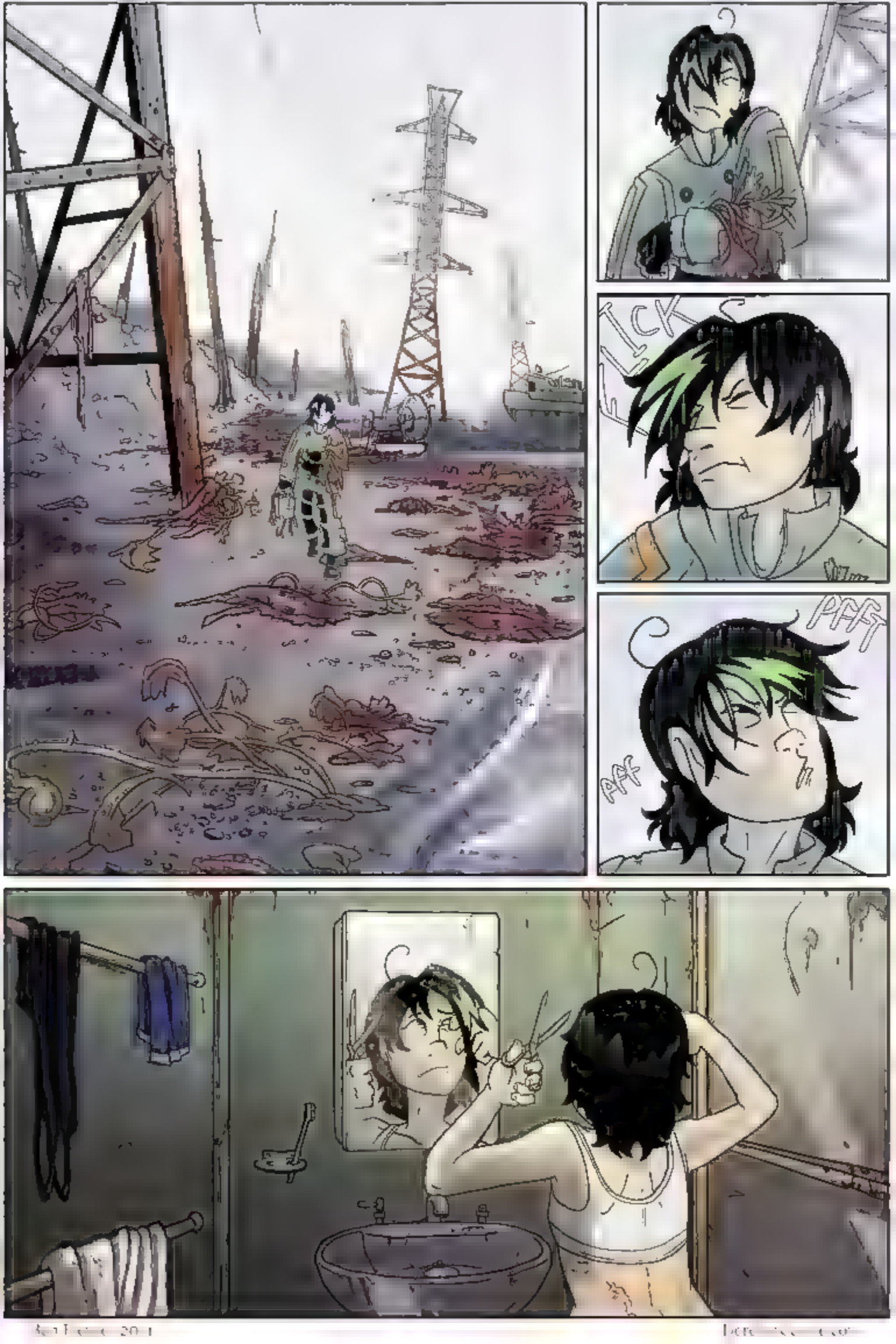

KRAK
GHN
GHN
GSHK
AAAA
K.R.K
THK

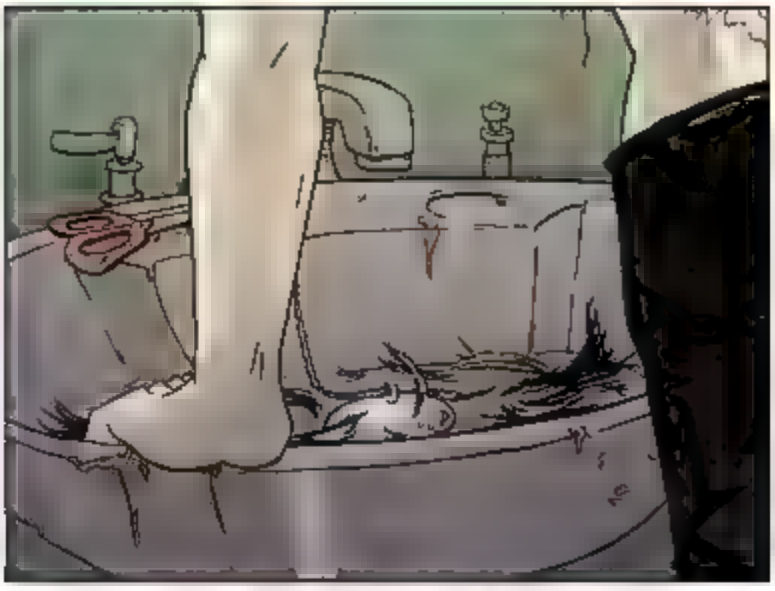

WMP
UNK

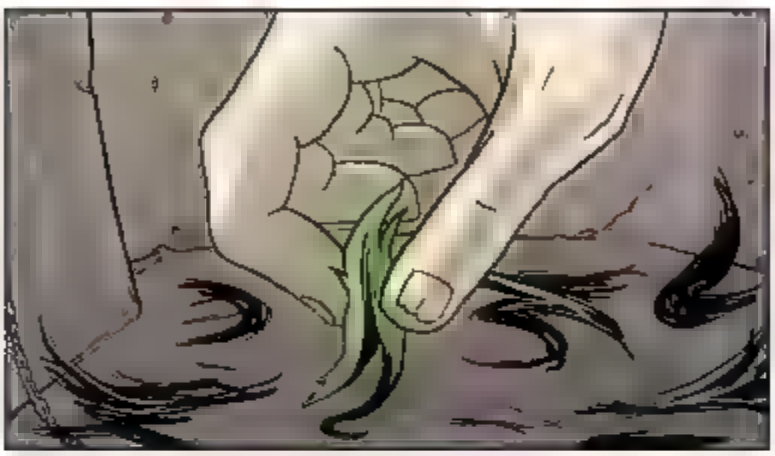
WHERE ARE YOU WHERE ARE YOU..
AH!
HUP!

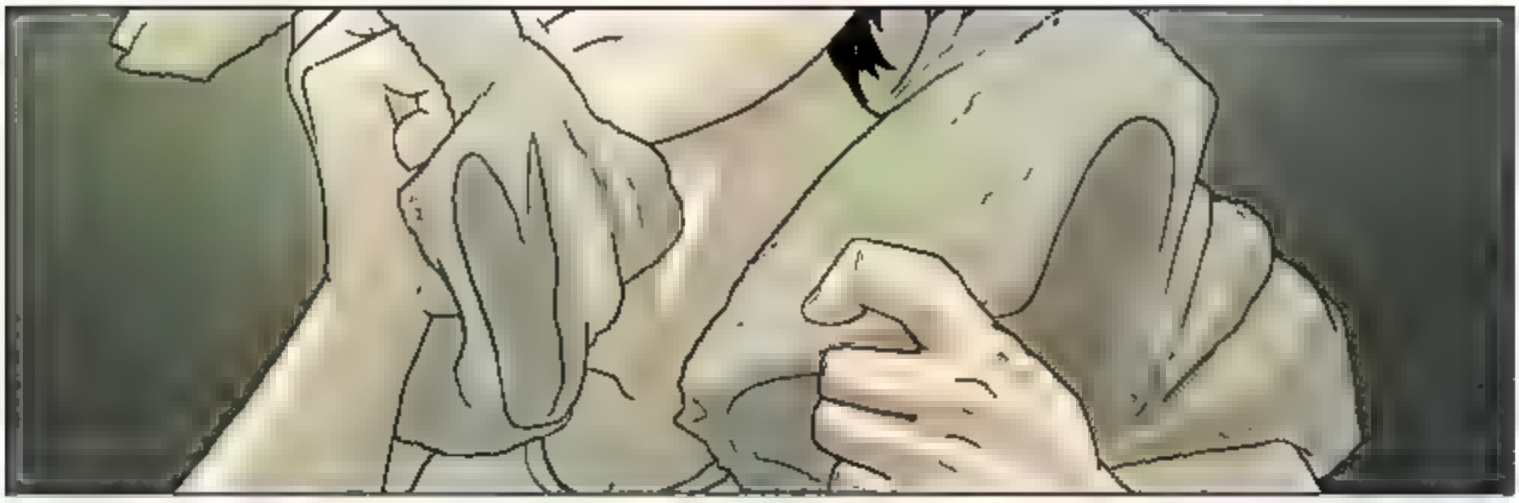



DOWN THREE UV BOLTS, A ROPE, AND A SHOE FOR ABOUT A PINT OF OIL.
NOT THINKING WE BROKE EVEN THERE, PEN.
UHG...
LOOKING LIKE THE CENTRAL VALLEY'S GARGOYLE FRONTIER NOW
LET'S HEAD NORTH A BIT EARLY.


TCK
PFFT
pf
pf

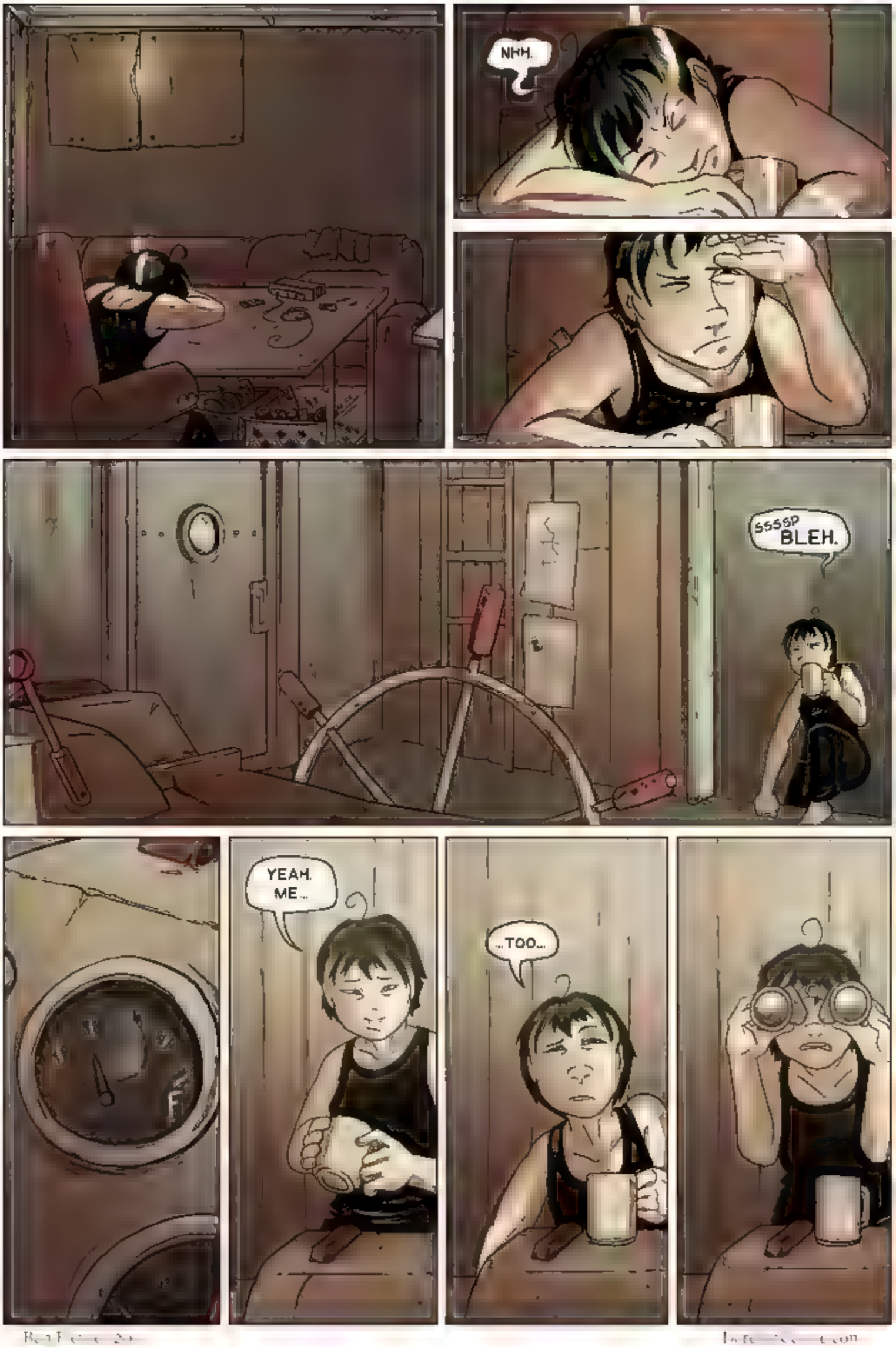


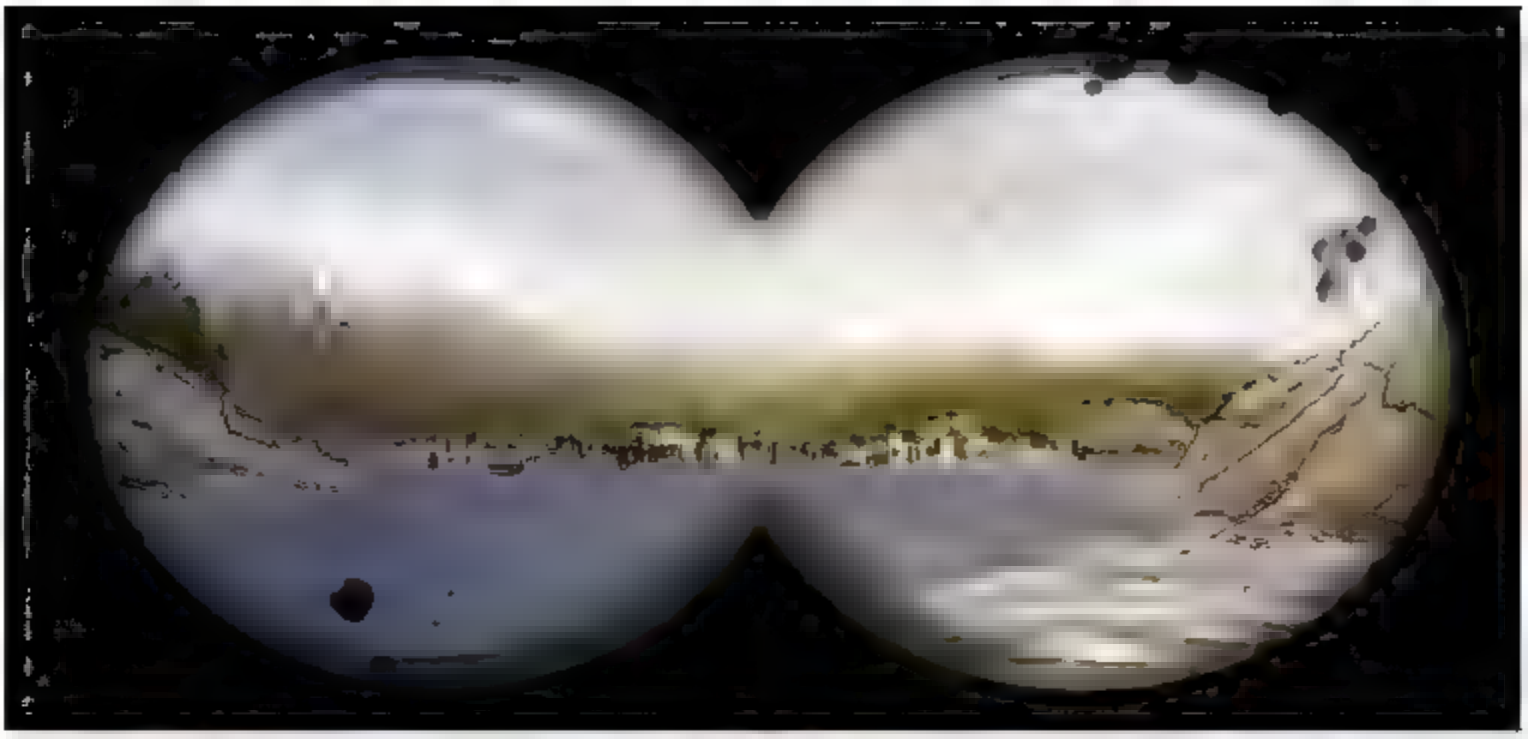


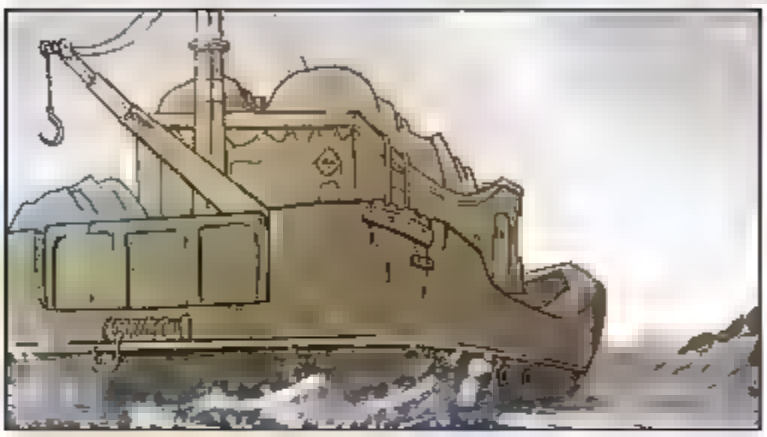


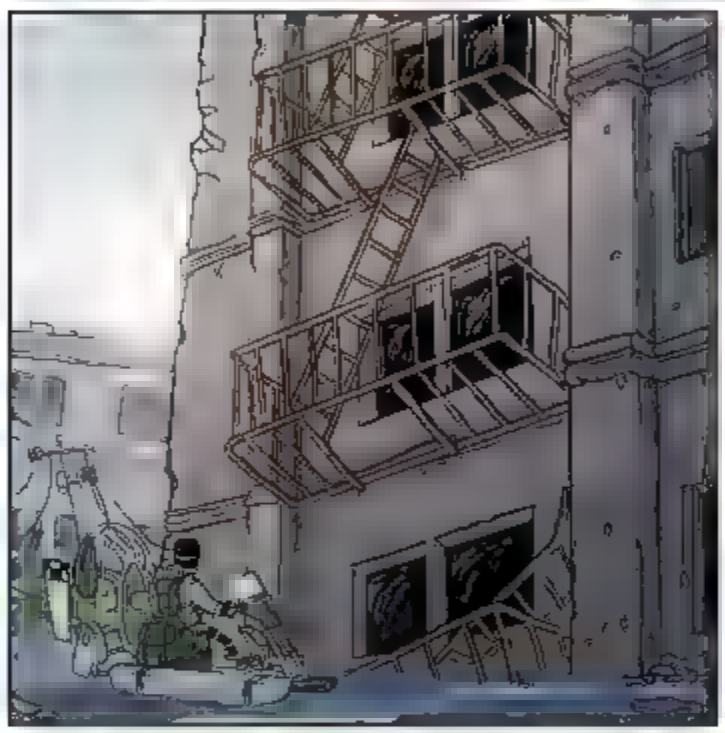
AW. YES.
NOW WHO'S SEXIEST?

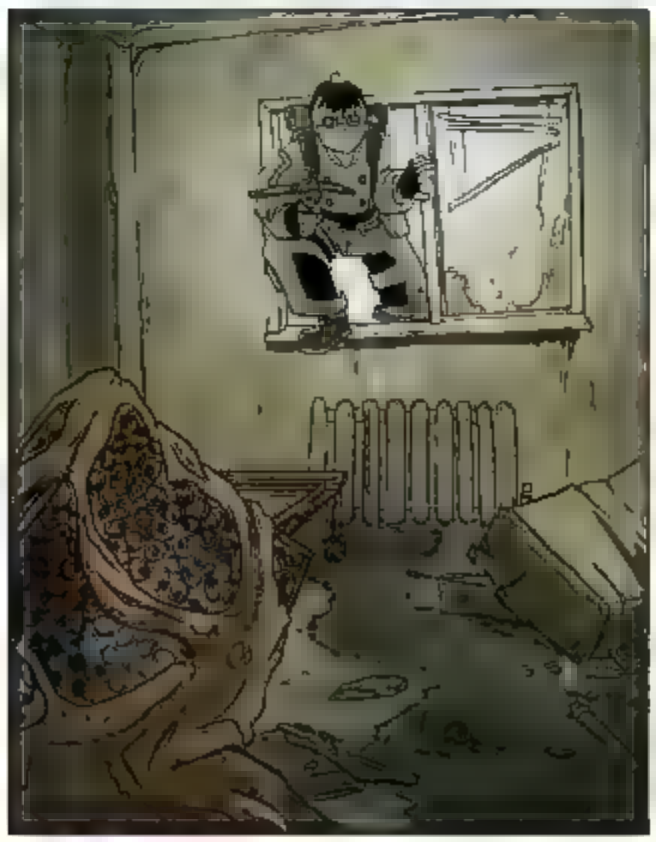
AH!
OKAY... FINALLY...
SHNRRRK...

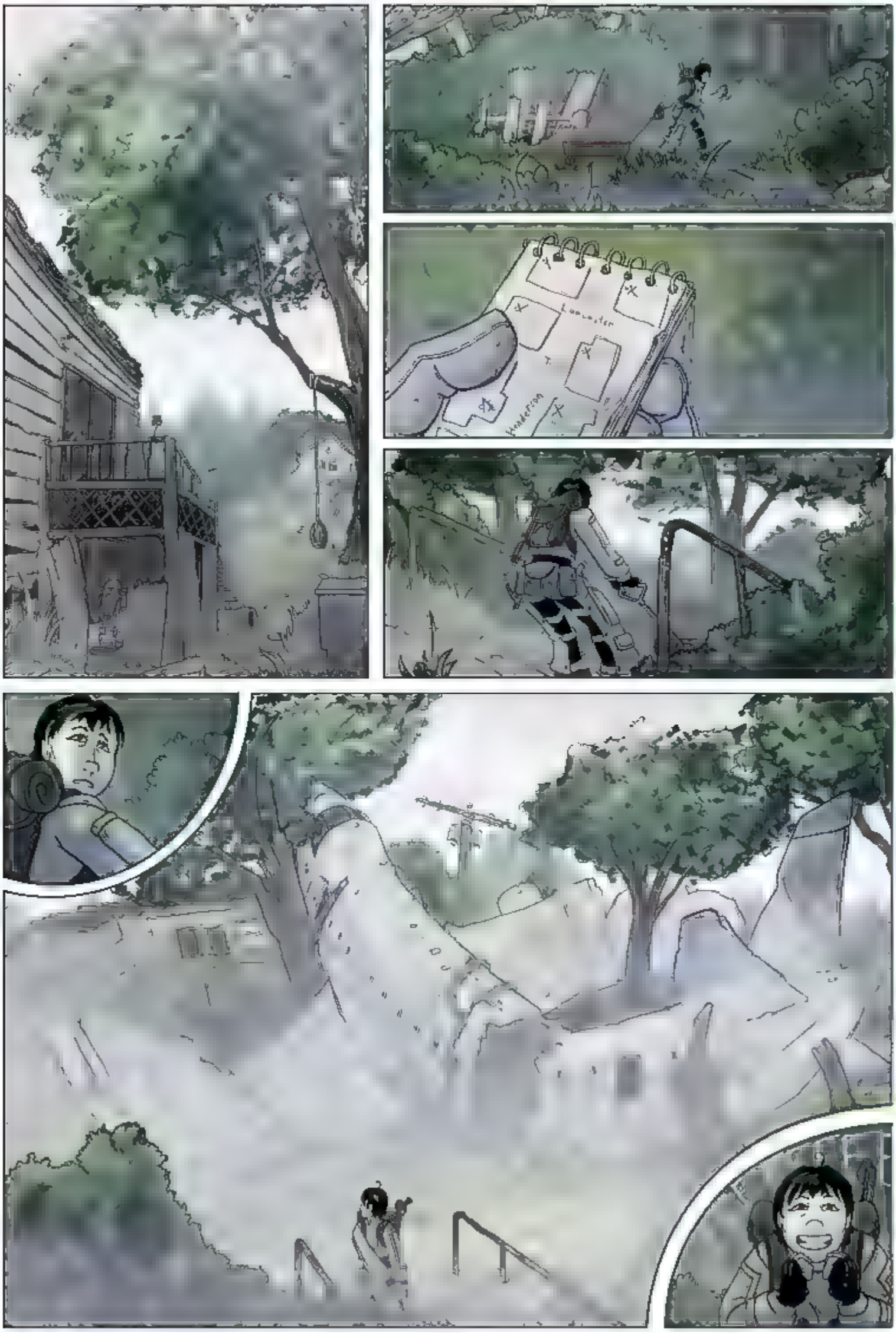

NHH.
SSSSP
BLEH.
YEAH.
ME...
..TOO..










Lancaster
Henderson

KUP TUP
TUP
MORNIN'.

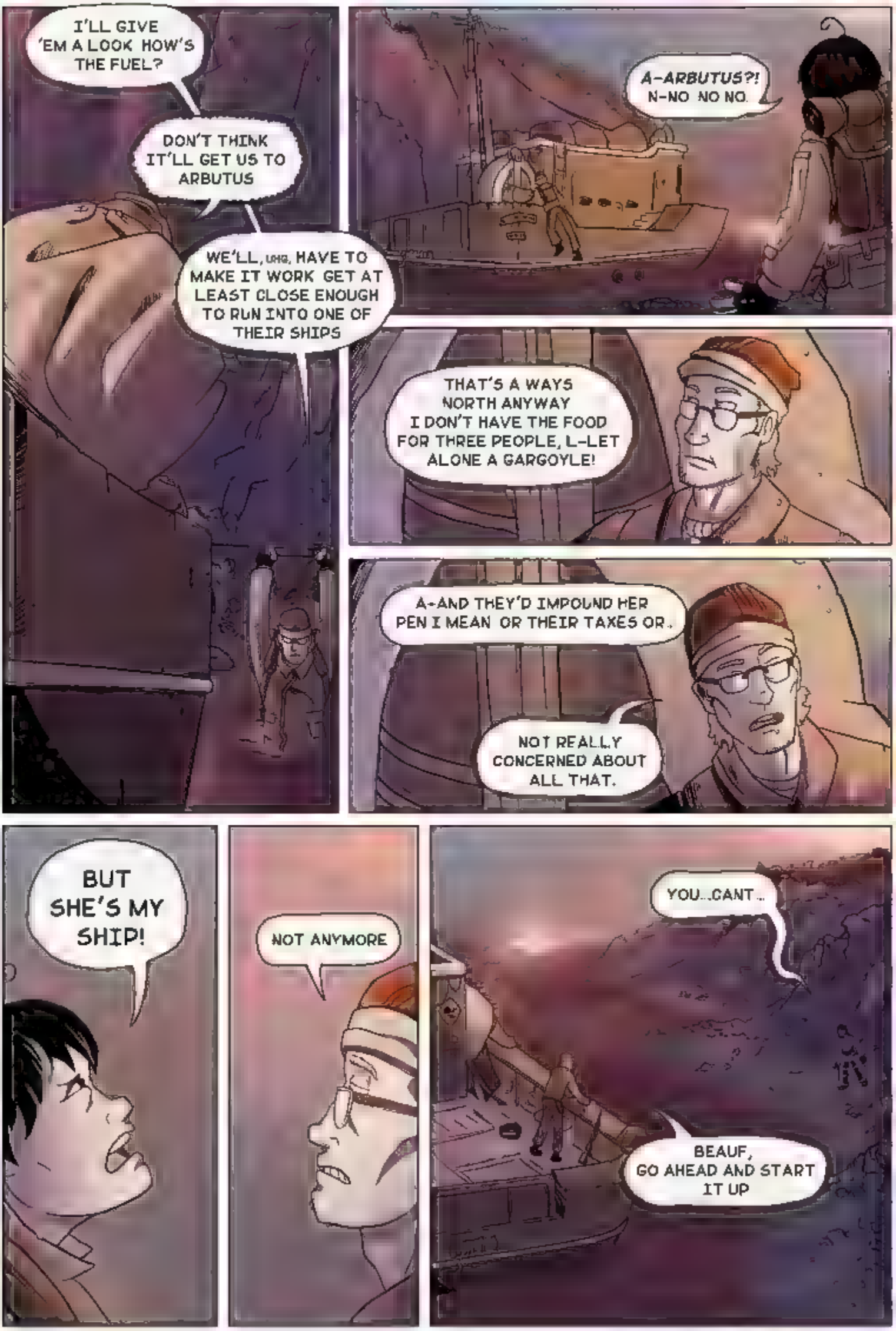
WOULDN'T TRY THAT.
WEAPONS OUT. WHERE I CAN SEE 'EM.
OKA...I-I.. OKAY
LEAVE 'EM THERE. YOU OUT THE SIDE
NOPE.

YOU STRUGGLE, I BREAK YOU
RIGHT WHAT'S ALL THIS?
UH...
EL-ELECTRONICS!
ERM... MEDICINE, SHAMPOO, BOOKS AND STUFF.
SOME CLOTHES.
A-AND UH! Y-YOU CAN HAVE IT ALL IF-
HM.
NHH
WAYS NORTH OF THE MOTH-FLEETS, EH?
WHERE'S YOUR BOAT AT?

BOAT? I DON'T HAVE A...
I'M NOT WITH THE MOTHBALL FLEETS
OH YEAH?
SHOES AND GLOVES.
UH.
OFF
WHAT..?
YEAH. SEE THIS BEAUF? CALLOUSED HANDS, SOFT FEET KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS?
WORKS LOTS, WALKS LESS?
MARK OF A SAILOR
SO.
YOJR BOAT

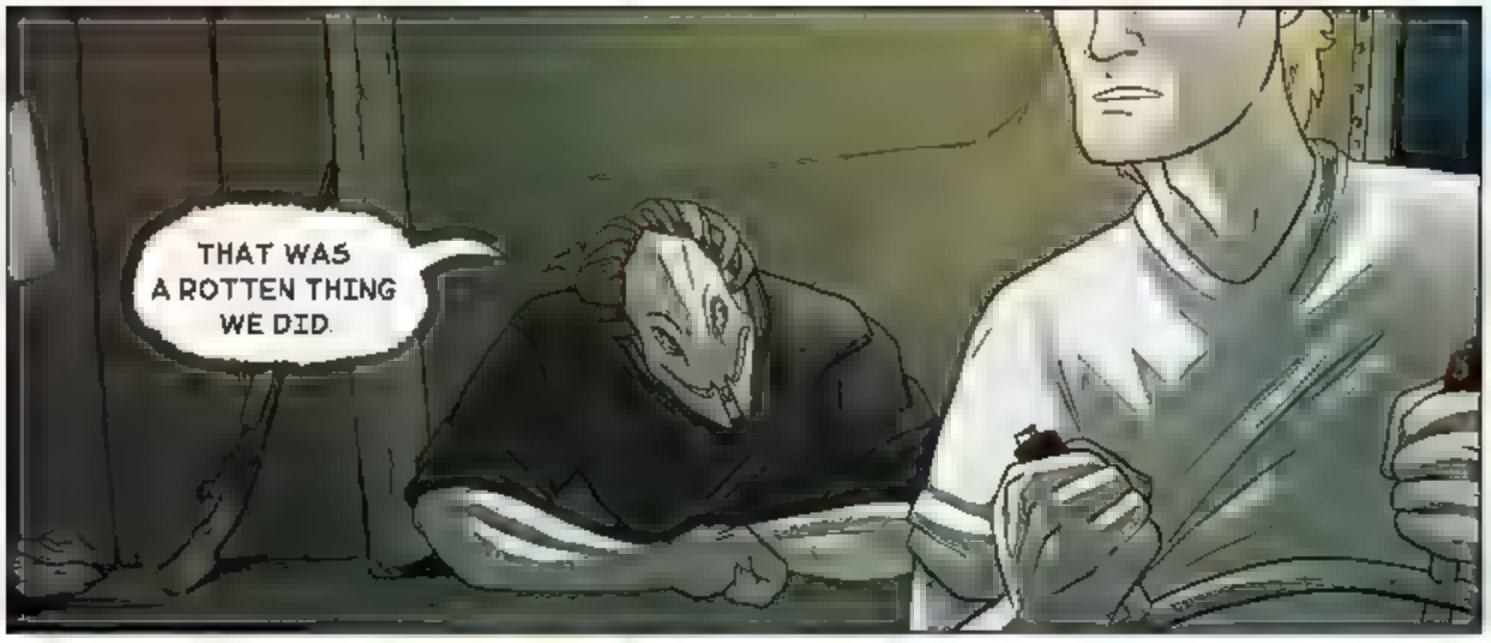
ACROSS THE EARTH, THE SUN-PEOPLE BUILT MONUMENTS TO THE WIND, ROCK, AND SKY - PRAYING THAT THESE FORCES GRANT TO THEM THEIR MIGHT
THEIR MONUMENTS WERE ENDLESS - IDOLS SWEEPING THE EARTH. THEIR POWER SEEMED LIMITLESS.
UNTIL IT CONSUMED THEM.

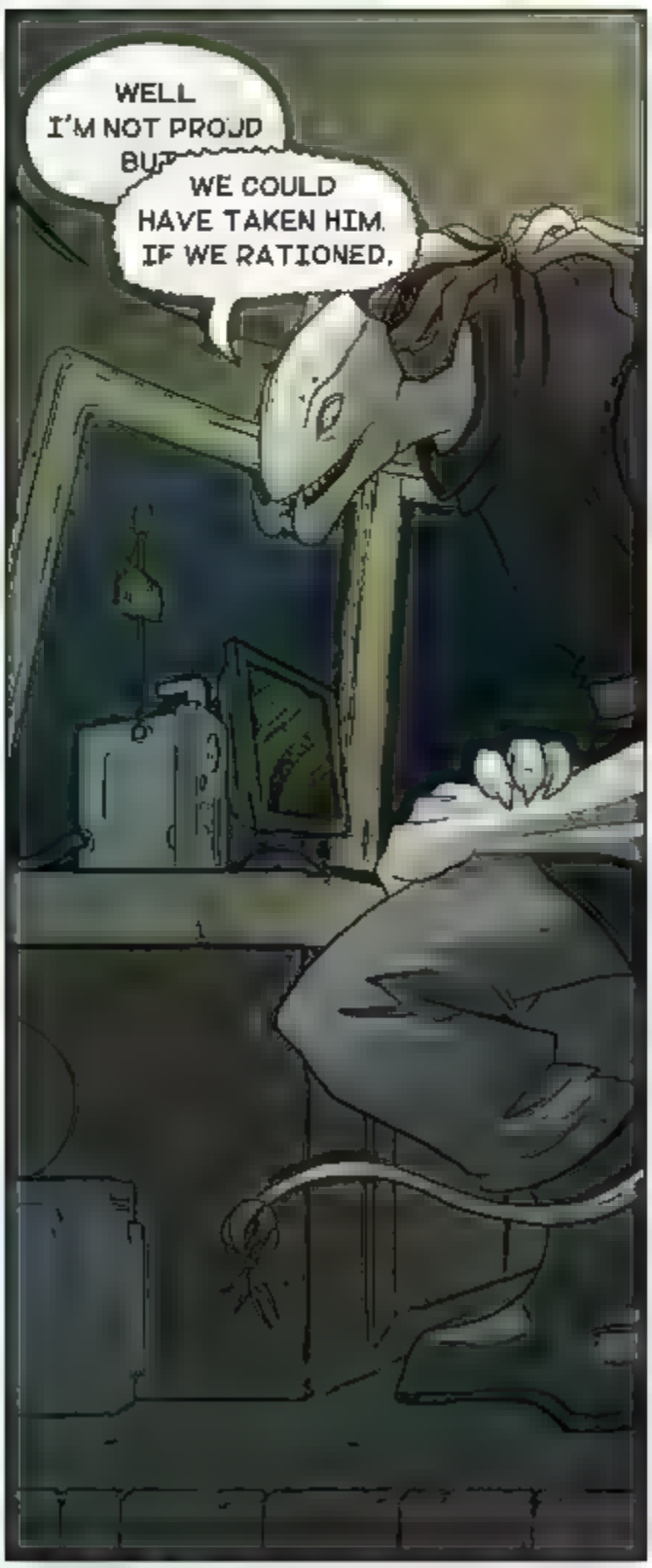
ANYONE ON BOARD?
J-JUST ME. ER, I MEAN 'NO'
BEAUF, CHECK IT ANYWAY
WHAT'S HER NAME?
HUH? THE GARGOYLE ?
THE SHIP. MOTHBALLER'S GONNA NAME THEIR SHIP.
OH. P-PENUMBRA. BUT UH, I'M NOT A...
THE DYE?
JUST... LIKE IT LIKE THIS MAYBE.
DIDN'T SEE ANYONE, JUST A LOTTA JUNK.
THERE'S TRAP DOORS BUT I CAN'T FIT
THIS WAS TAPED UNDER ONE.

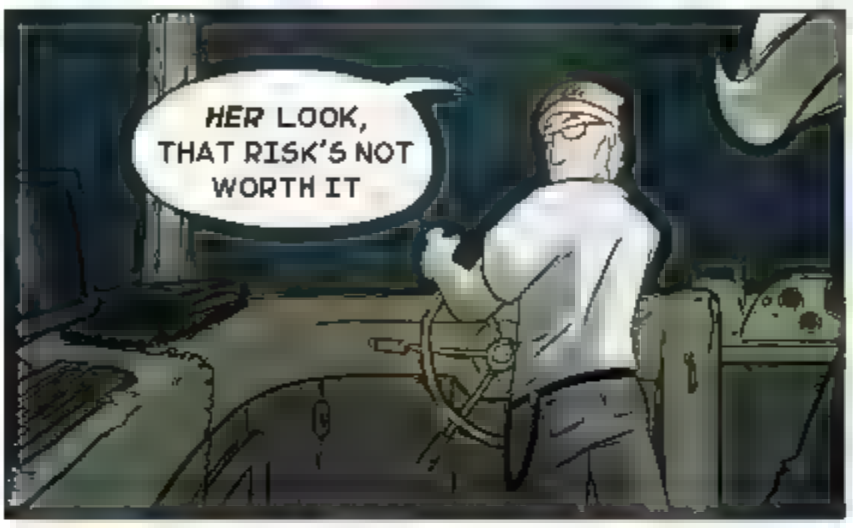

I'LL GIVE 'EM A LOOK HOW'S THE FUEL?
DON'T THINK IT'LL GET US TO ARBUTUS
WE'LL, UHG, HAVE TO MAKE IT WORK GET AT LEAST CLOSE ENOUGH TO RUN INTO ONE OF THEIR SHIPS
A-ARBUTUS?! N-NO NO NO.
THAT'S A WAYS NORTH ANYWAY I DON'T HAVE THE FOOD FOR THREE PEOPLE, L-LET ALONE A GARGOYLE!
A-AND THEY'D IMPOUND HER PEN I MEAN OR THEIR TAXES OR..
NOT REALLY CONCERNED ABOUT ALL THAT.
BUT SHE'S MY SHIP!
NOT ANYMORE
YOU...CANT..
BEAUF, GO AHEAD AND START IT UP

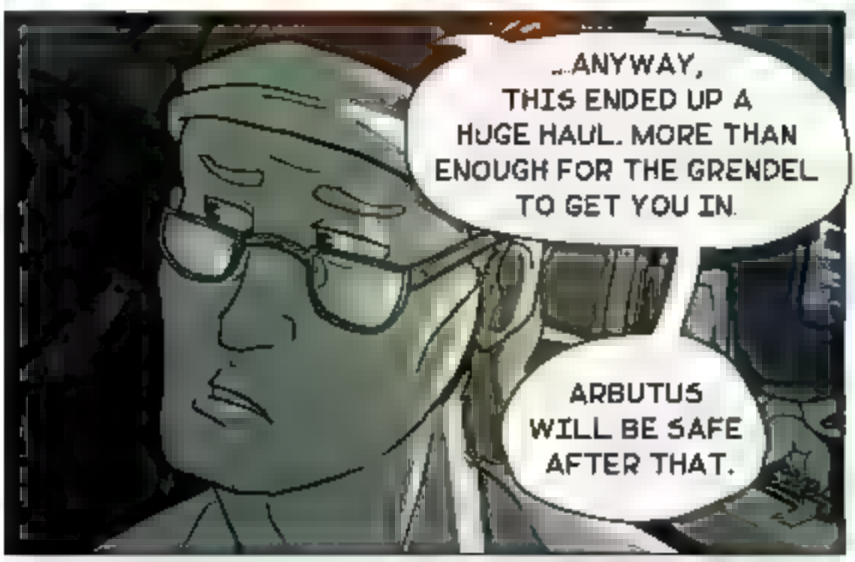
Ben Fiester 2014

NO! WAIT! L-LOOK!
WHAT ABOUT PRIMROSE?! I WAS MAKING A FUEL RUN THERE SOON ANYWAY!
O-OR! OR!
OR YOU COULD HITCH FROM THERE WITH AN ARBUTUS TRADER!
I'LL PAY PASSAGE FOR YOU EVEN!
WE DON'T REALLY AIM TO GO BACK TO PRIMROSE
YOU CAN'T JUST... BUT WHAT ABOUT ME?!
WHAT *ABOUT* YOU?

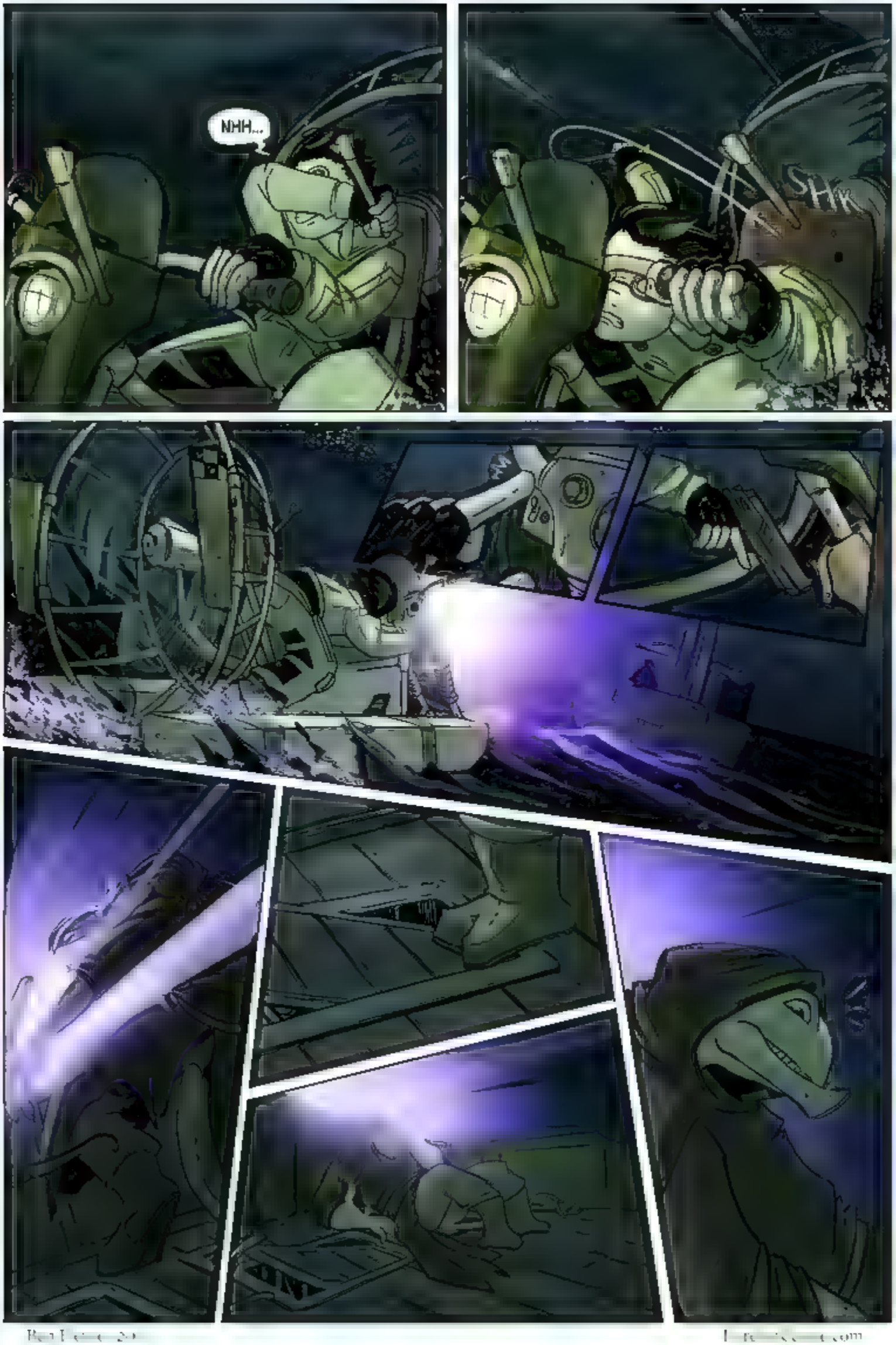

THAT WAS A ROTTEN THING WE DID.


WELL I'M NOT PROUD BUT
WE COULD HAVE TAKEN HIM. IF WE RATIONED.


HER LOOK, THAT RISK'S NOT WORTH IT


...ANYWAY, THIS ENDED UP A HUGE HAUL. MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR THE GRENDEL TO GET YOU IN.
ARBUTUS WILL BE SAFE AFTER THAT.

SHUT UP. LOOK
EH?
STERN CAM
. TAKE CARE OF THIS.
VVVVVVVV
AH!
SHNG
SHNG


NHH...
SHK

CHK
CHAK
CLINK
AW
FUK
KROOM

MAY YOUR CREATOR WELCOME YOU WITH OPEN ARMS.

BEAUTIFUL FLOWER?

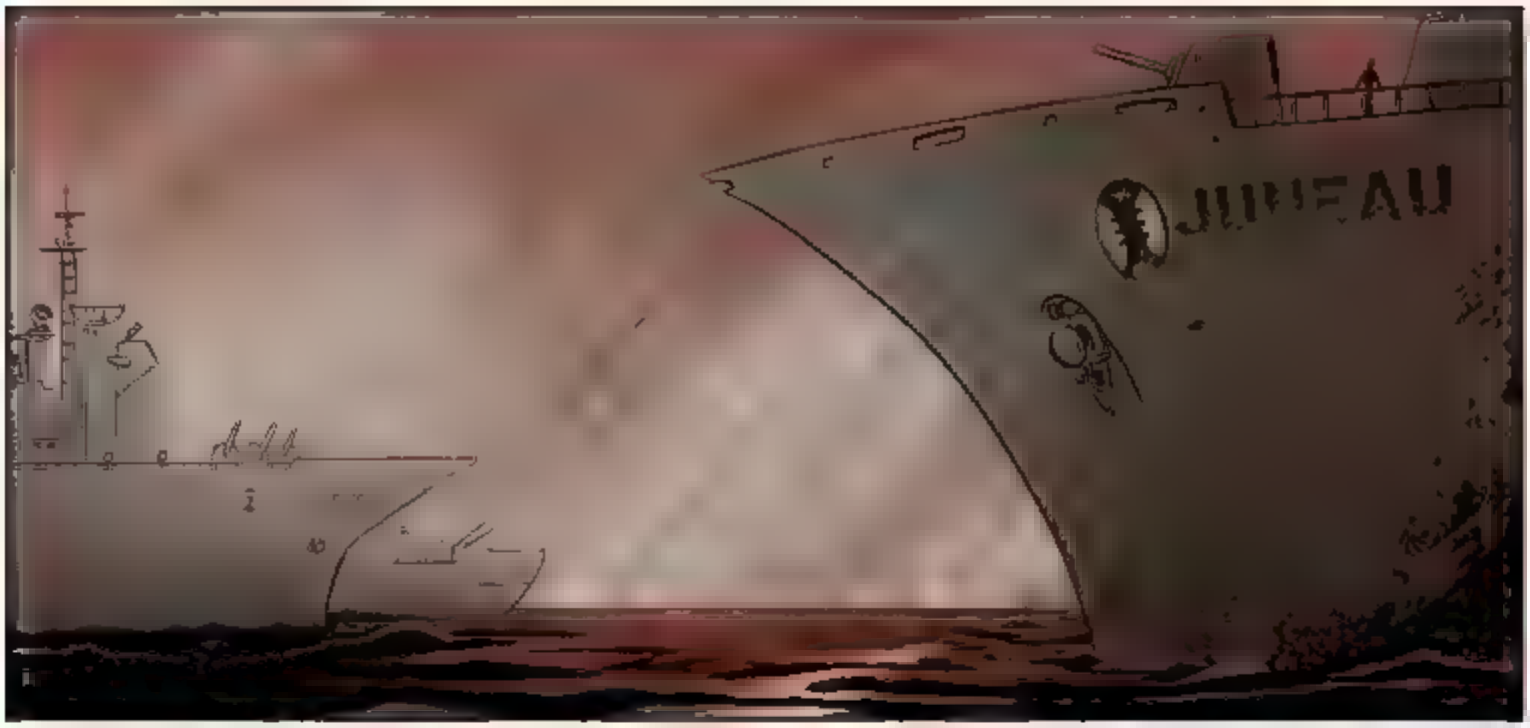
SHIT!

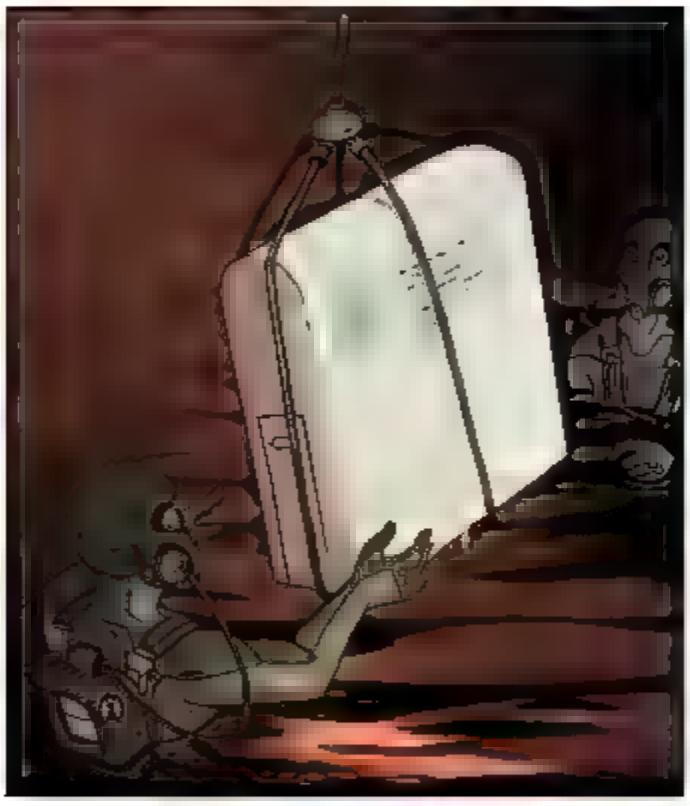
HHHUuH... SHIT.
FFF ..FUCK
DEAD THE MOMENT I HAD TO GO FIGHT A MOTHBALLER ON HER OWN SHIP

H-HOW
HOW ARE YOJ THAT SURE ABOUT ME?
BEA...BEAUTIFUL FLOWER YOU CALLED HER A "GARGOYLE"
HHHNN... ONLY
ONLY MOTHBALLERS CALL 'EM THAT
click
BOOOOM

GKK...
HKK...
HGK...
HN..
PAK

HURK


JUNEAU

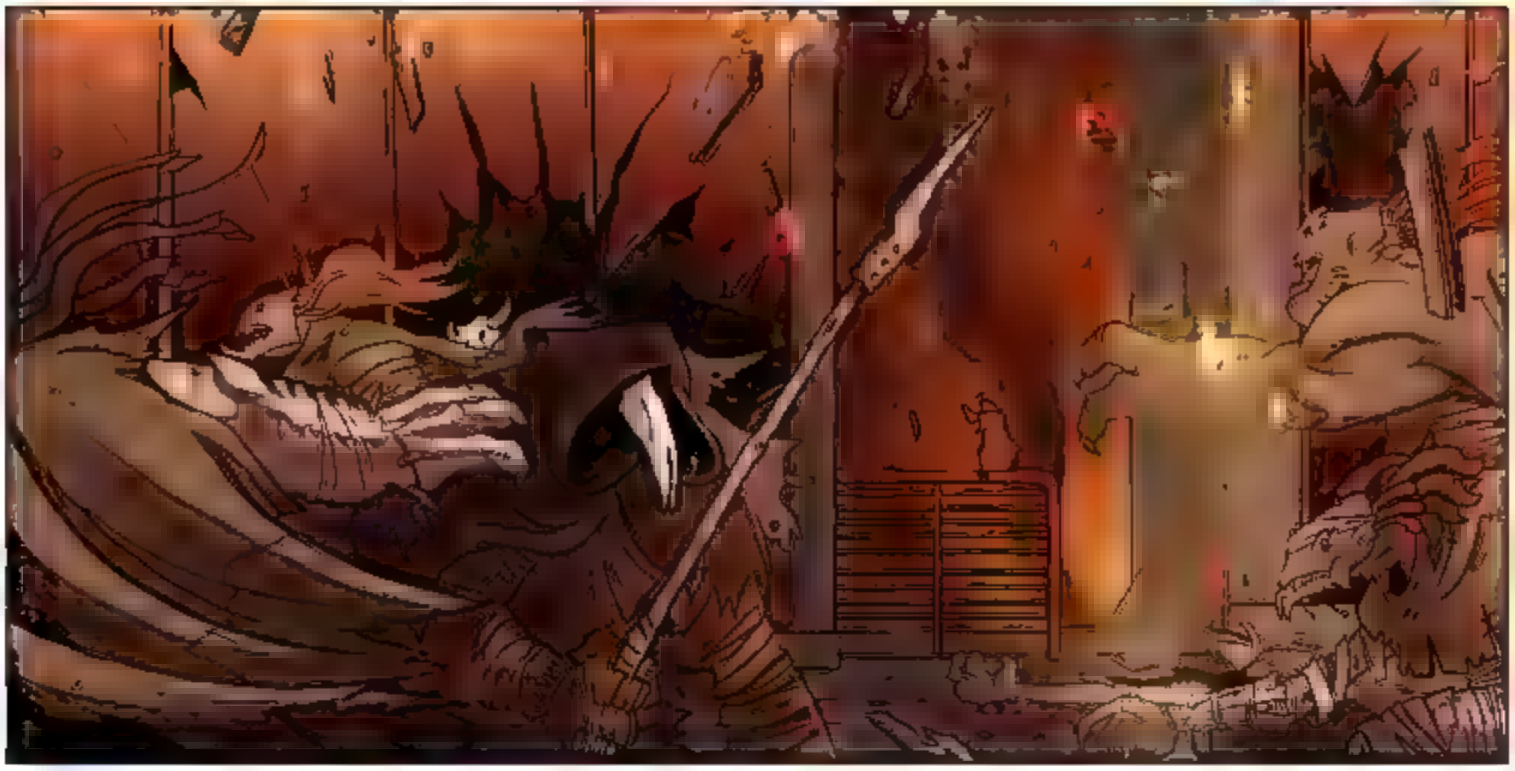


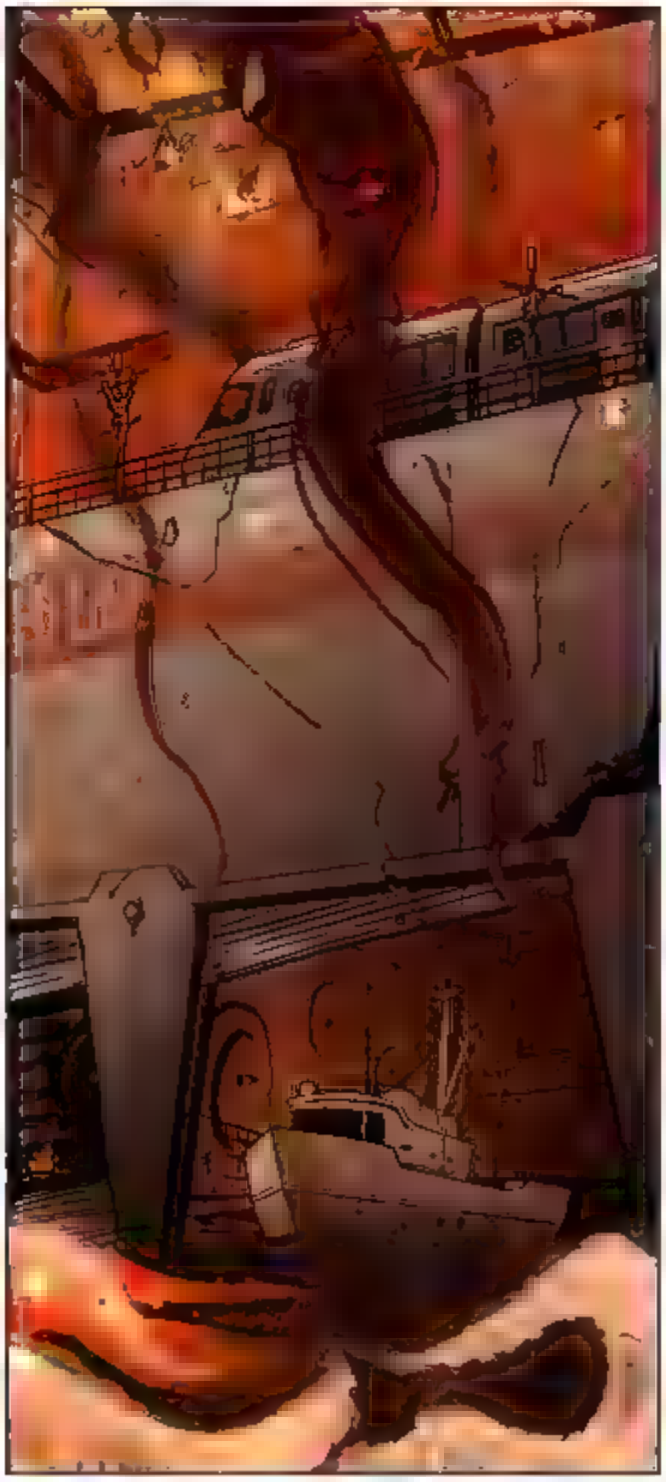
STAND TALL

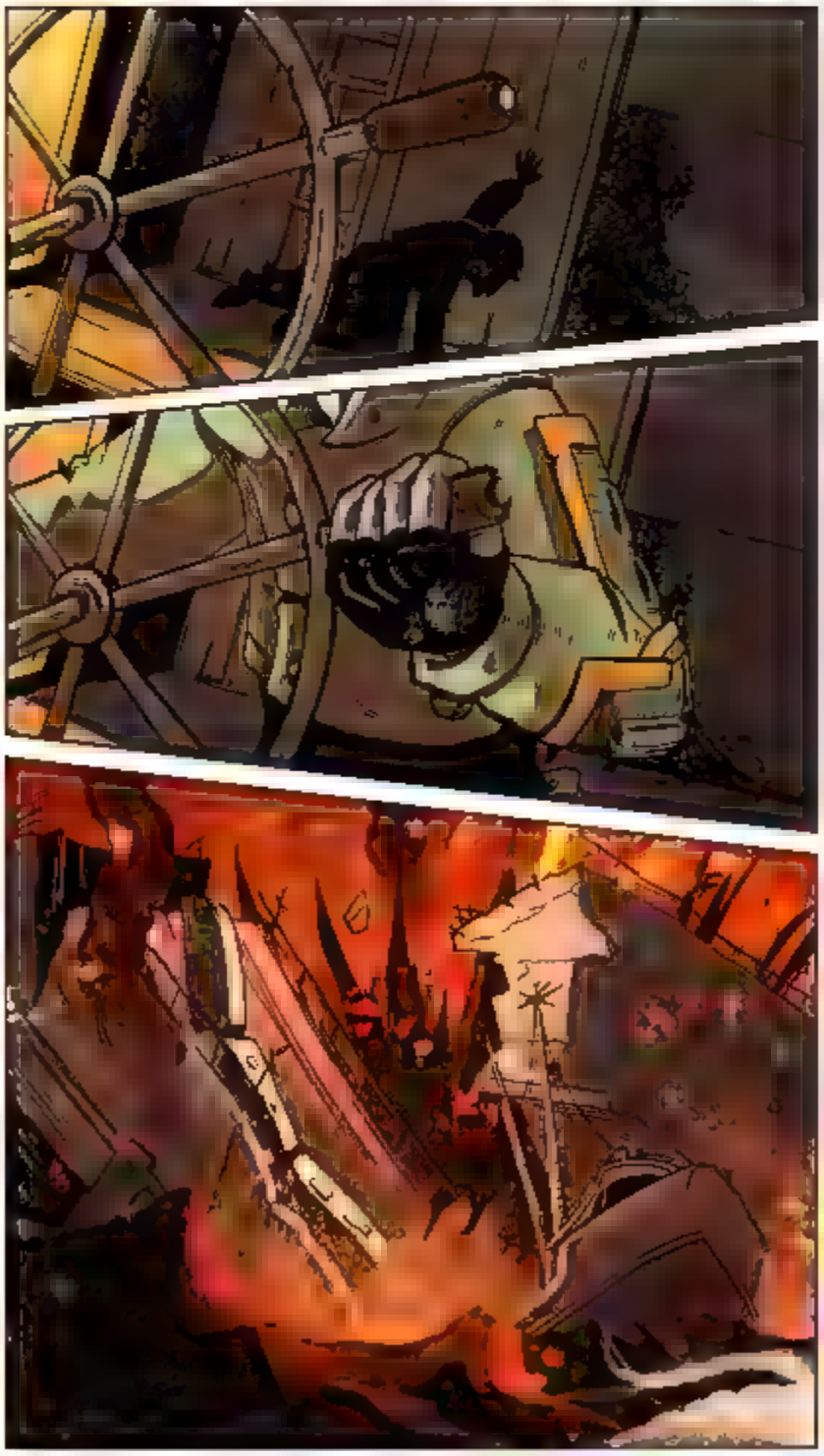
DOCK 3-46.
GO BACK.
PAUSE
ALRIGHT..

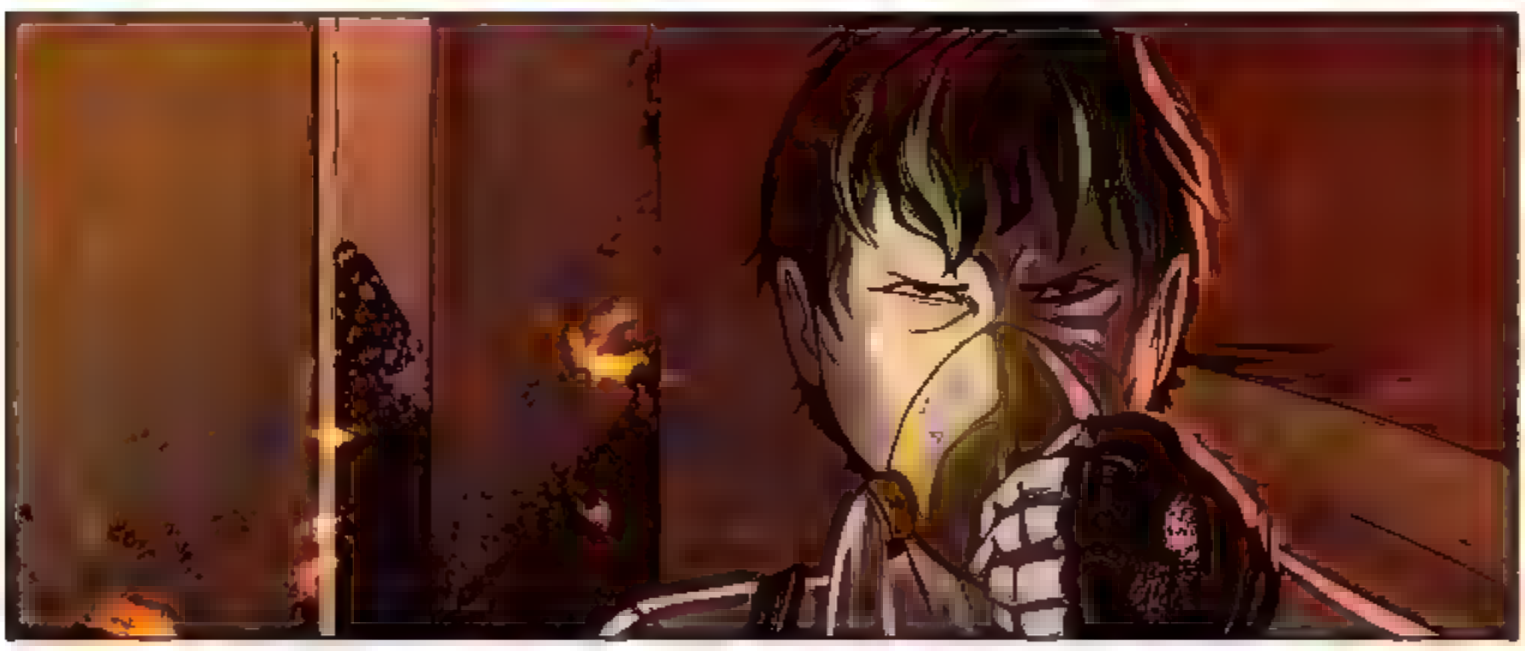
RESUME

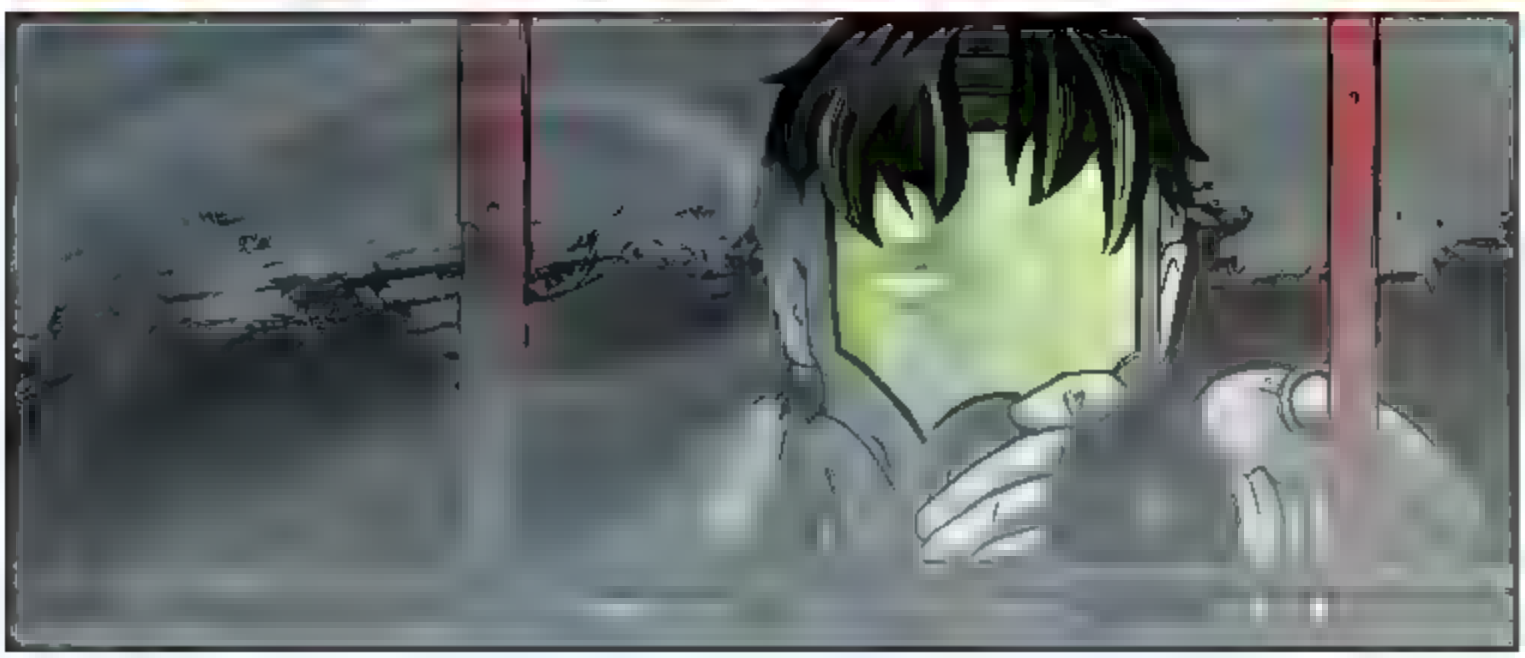
PRIMARSEA
ALIEN
O.O.C!
GRRRRR!



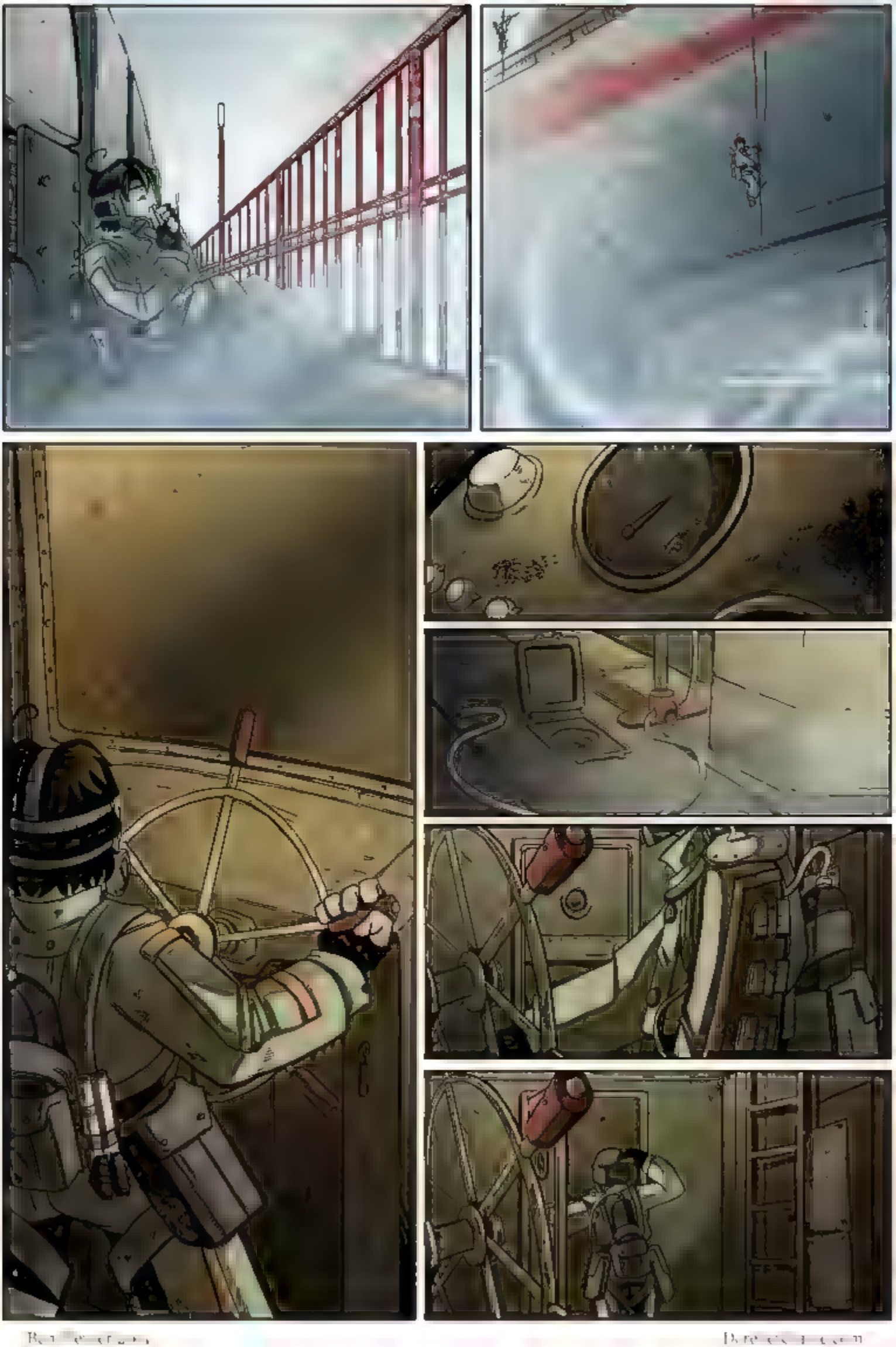


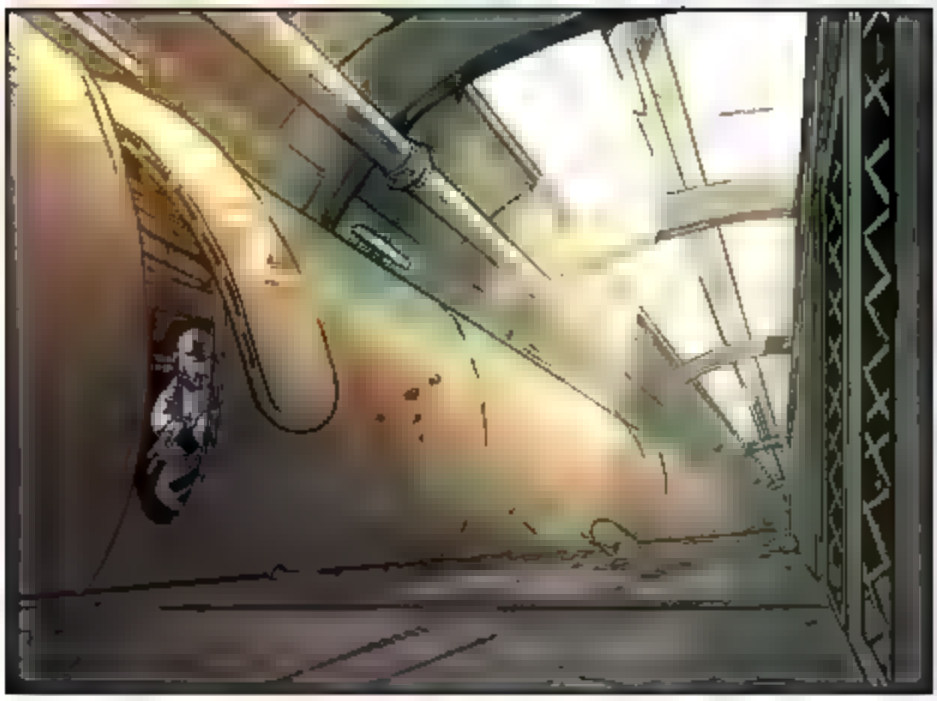


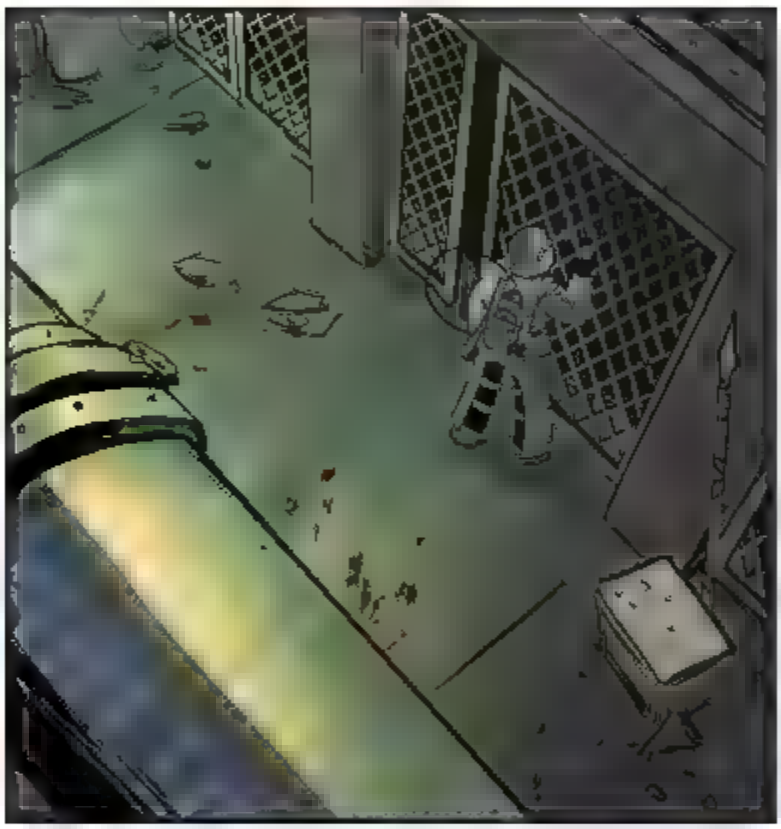


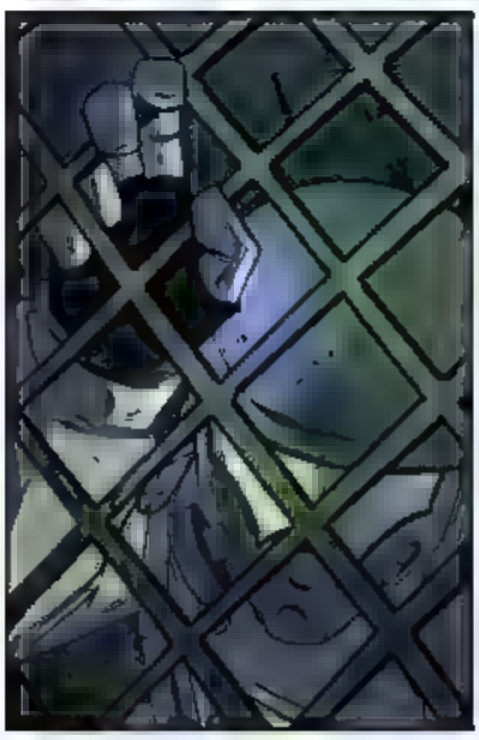


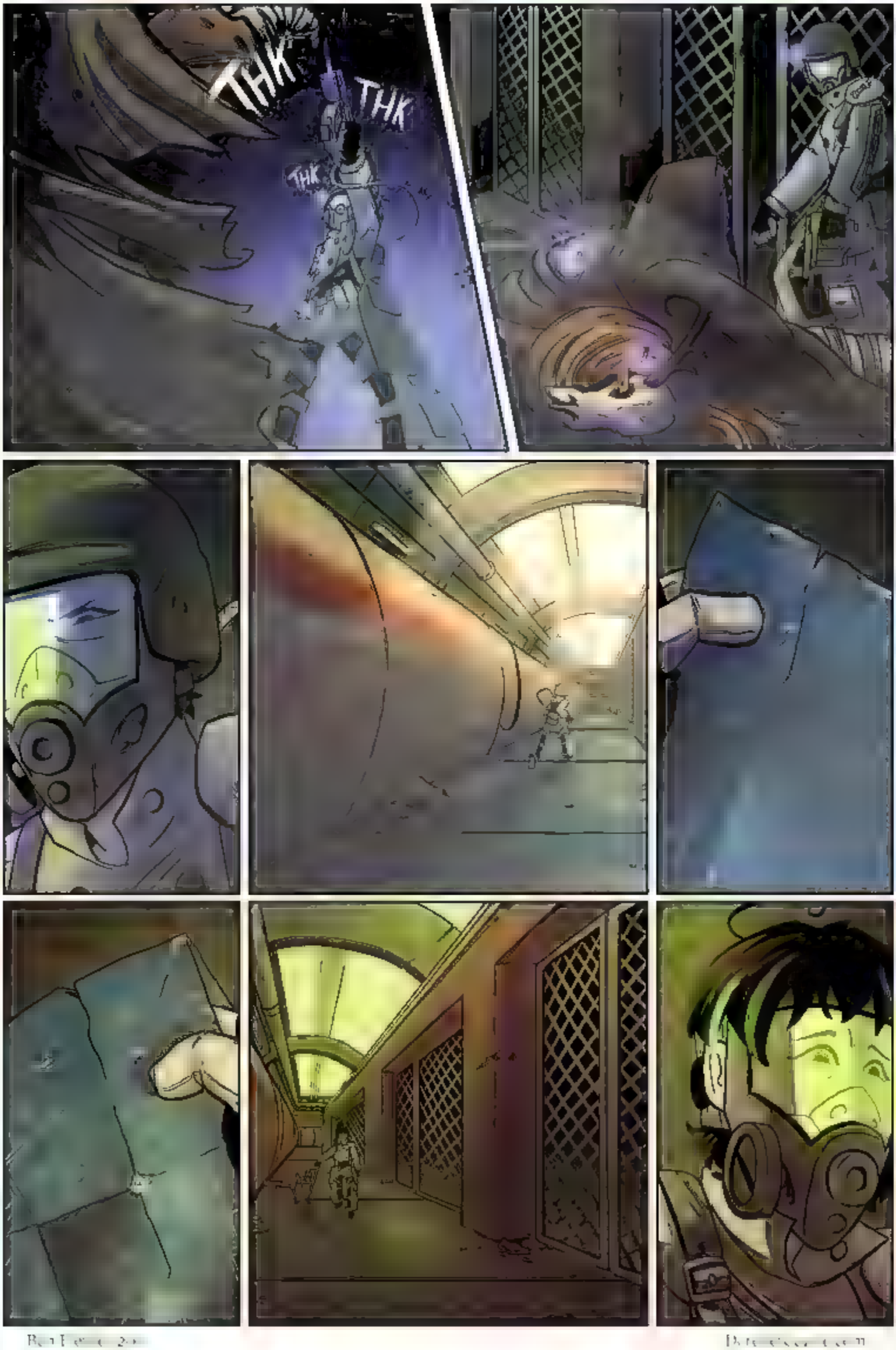
GOYA.
NO..
PLEASE NO.
SHH.



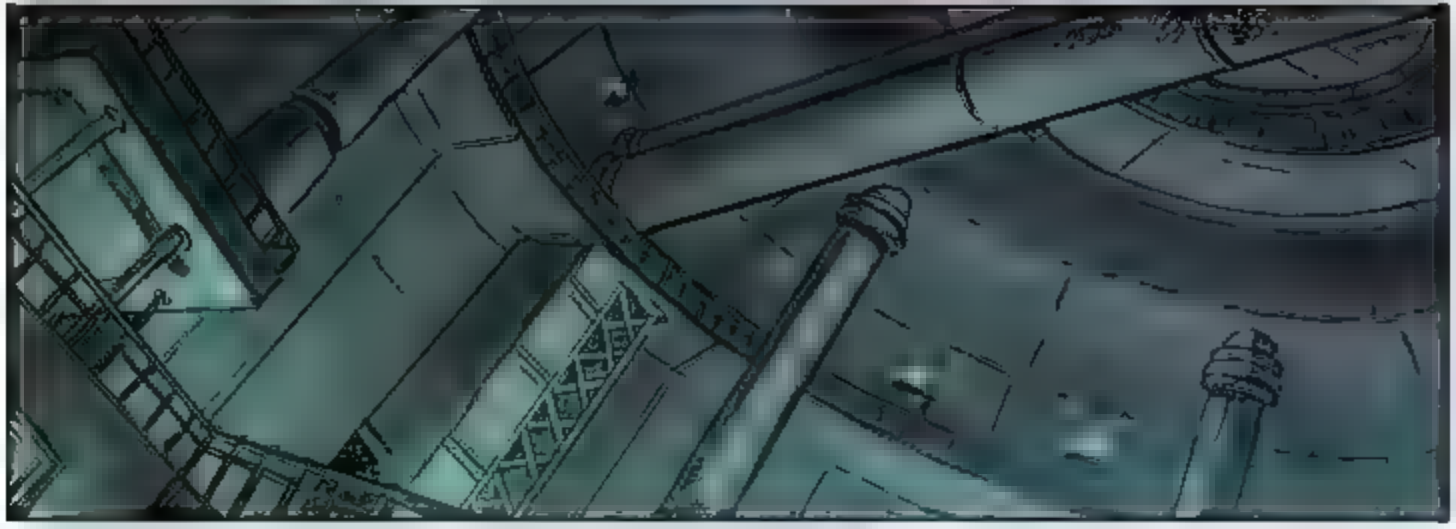






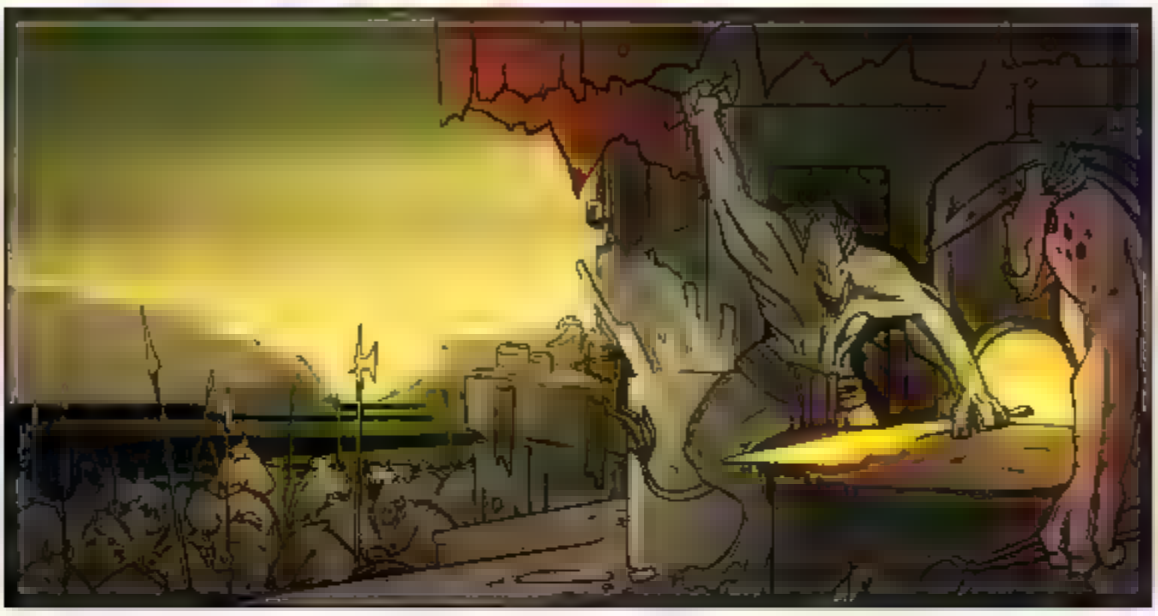

THK
THK
THK

SH
SHNRRRRN..



GRAK!
HAA!
GROOO!!
!

WELP
NOT GETTING GAS THERE
OH.
OKAY
SOONER YOU'RE DONE THE BETTER ..

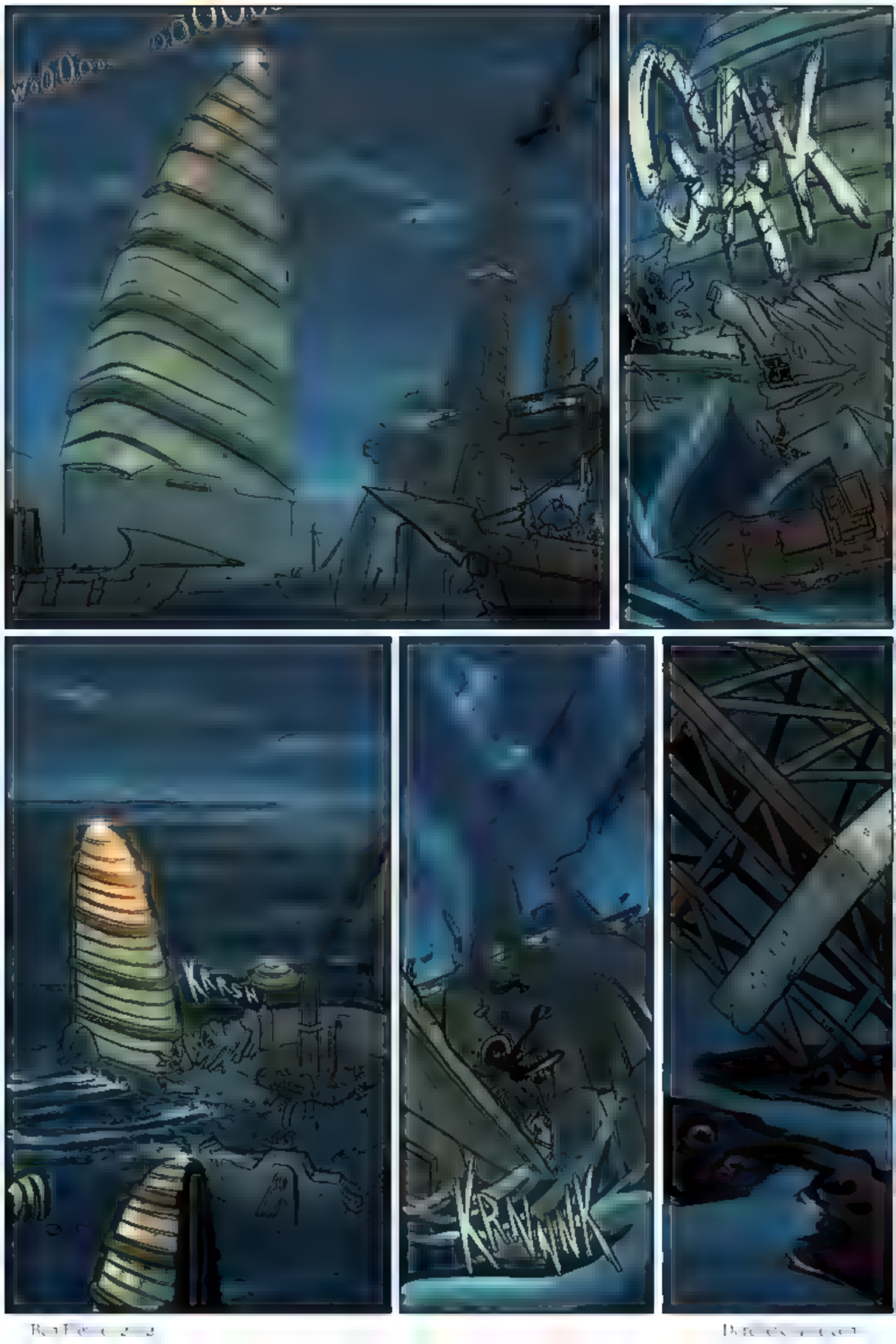


OKAY.
OKAY.
SHIT
OKAY.
GAS STATIONS' OUT, OIL DRILL'S OUT, BIG HUGE AWFUL FLEET'S SQUATTING IN PRIMROSE, AND YOU'RE STUCK HERE TILL YOU FUEL UP.
BUT YOU CAN FIGURE THIS OUT, RIGHT?
YOU'VE BEEN IN WORSE PLACES, RIGHT?
PRIMROSE ENGINEERING
YEAH... NO YOU HAVEN'T ..
THEY HAVE TO REFINE THE OIL. PUMP IT TO THE STATIONS.
SO. WHERE'S A FUEL LINE ...
PRIMROSE ENGINEERING
PRIMROSE ENGINEERING

WOOOOO
KTAK

BAM
TING

SHWNG
HAAA!
ZZZ
FOOM


KARSH
KR-IN-NNK

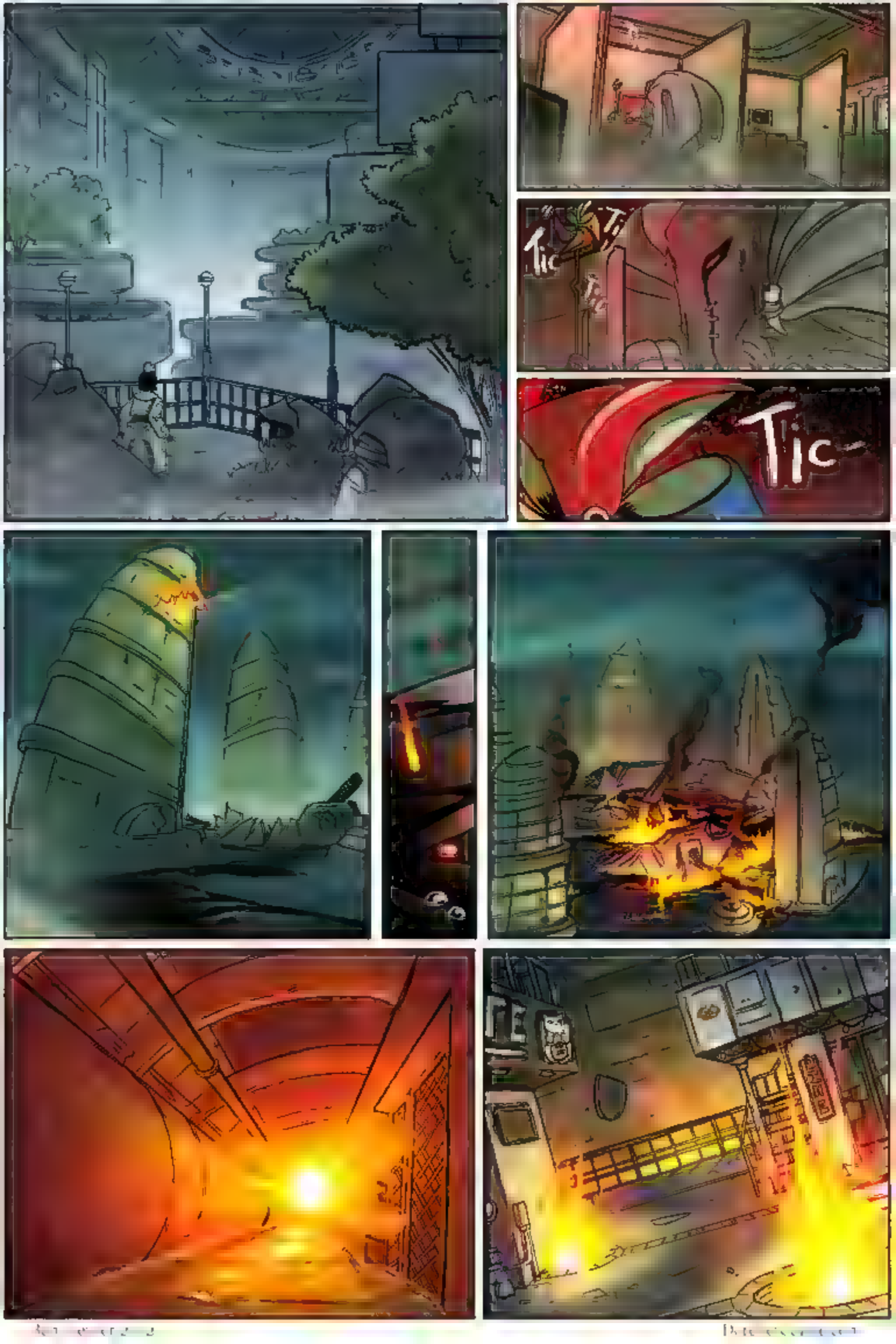
FWK
THOK
FWNN
CNK
FNT

BOOM
SPANG
SPANG
KASH

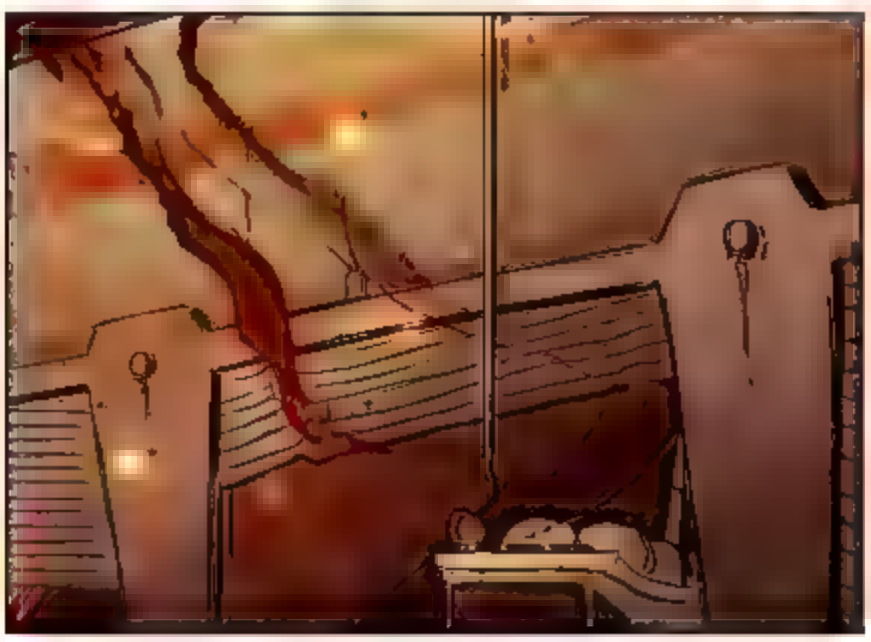
SUNMAN TONGUES HOLD NO PROPER WORDS "MIASMA" IT SQUEAKS "FOG" AND "MIST".
HUUH!
IT WILL BE BE MADE TO LISTEN TO THE SONG
THIS IS MASTER OVER LIFE AND DEATH THIS TAKES BREATH FROM OLD LIFE AND CREATES NEW
THIS SEES ALL THINGS AS THEY HAPPEN AND AS THEY WILL HAPPEN
Cough
Cough
THIS IS GOD.

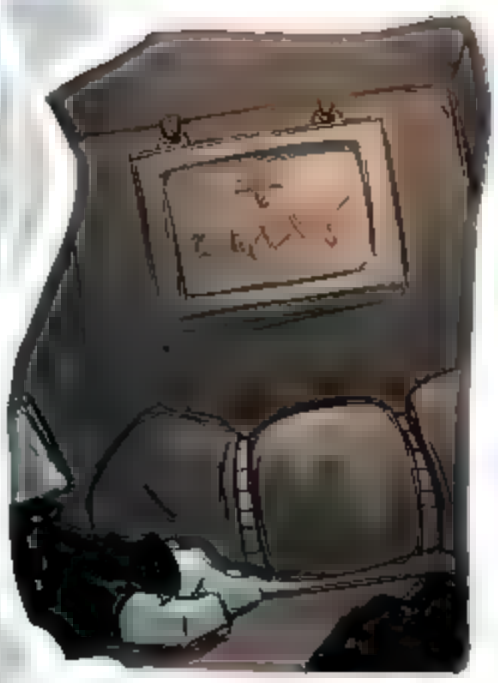
DOES IT NOT HEAR?
LISTEN!
THIS IS INFINITE VOICES IN ONE CHORUS.
IT WILL SHOW US WHAT THEY SAY

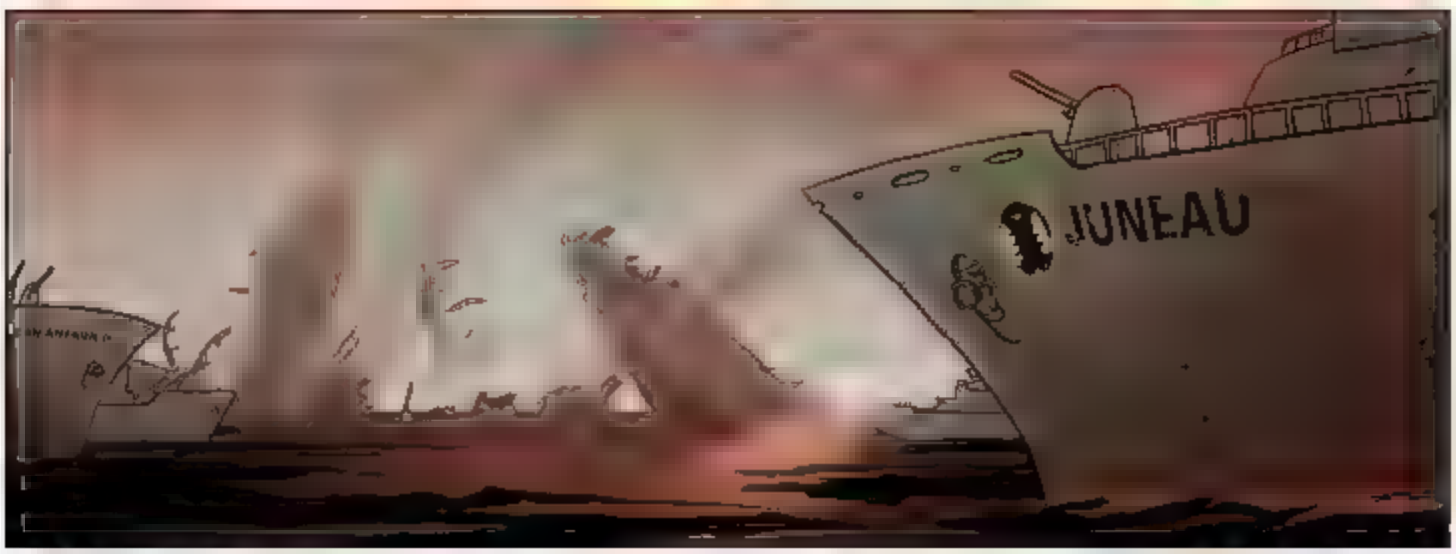
Tic Tic Tic


Tic
Tic

HUH?



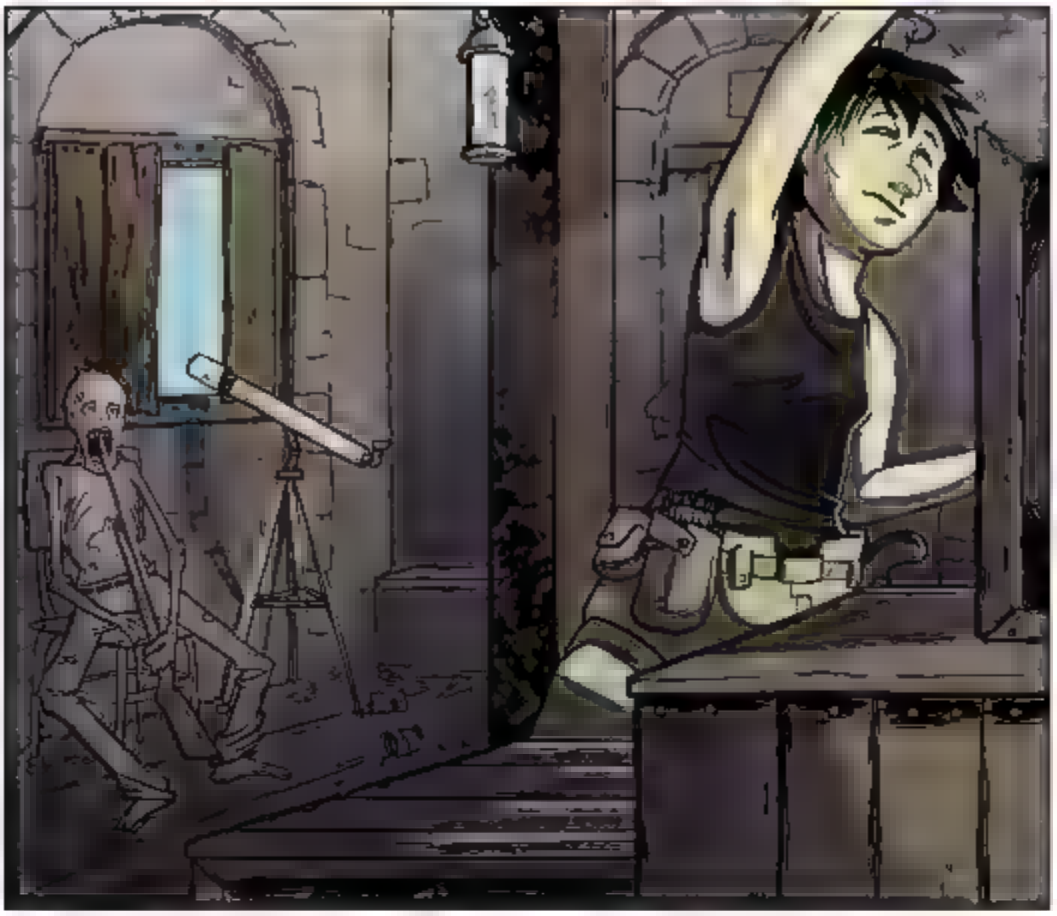


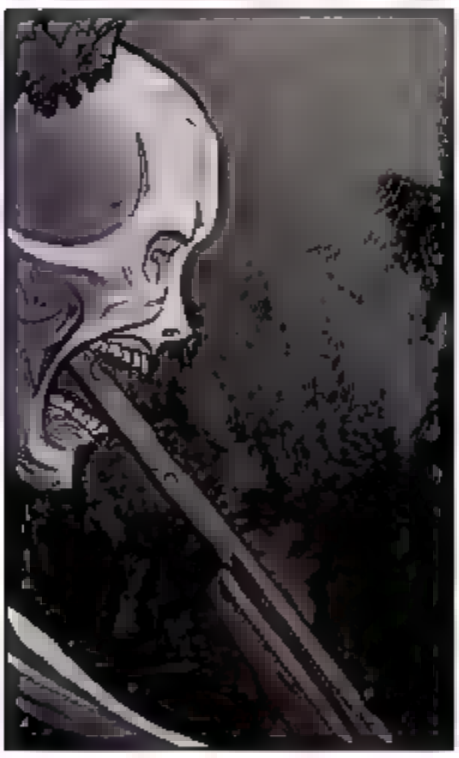

JUNEAU

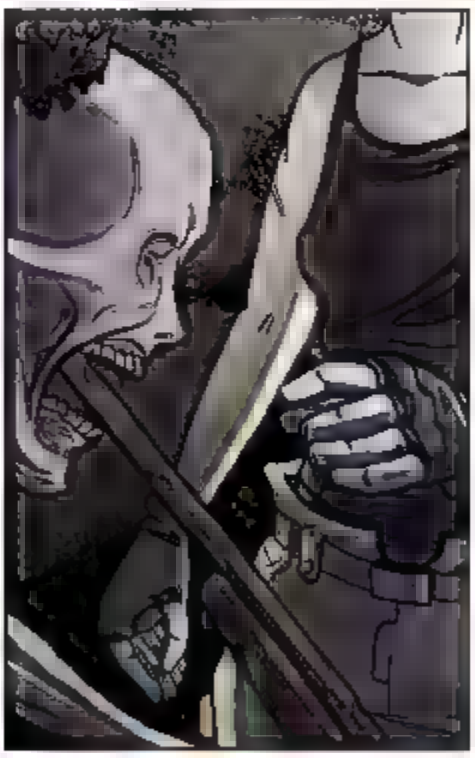
JESUS FUCKING CHRIST.
COMPILE THIS AND CALL HOME
LET THEM KNOW WE KNOW WHAT HAPPENED IN PRIMROSE.

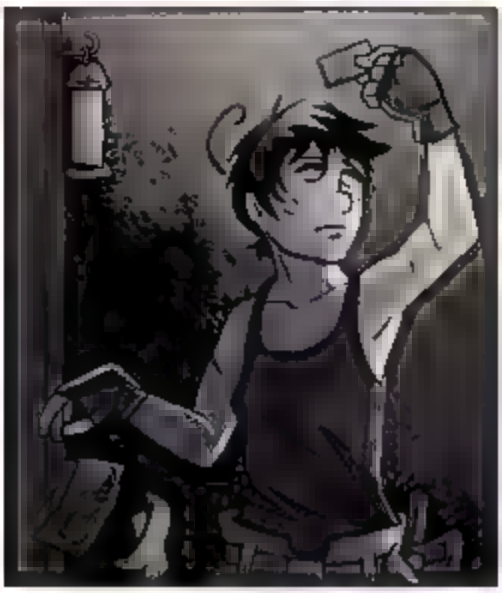
SSSHK
KSH
SSSHK
KSH
SHK
THUNK
KRAK
TNK
TIK

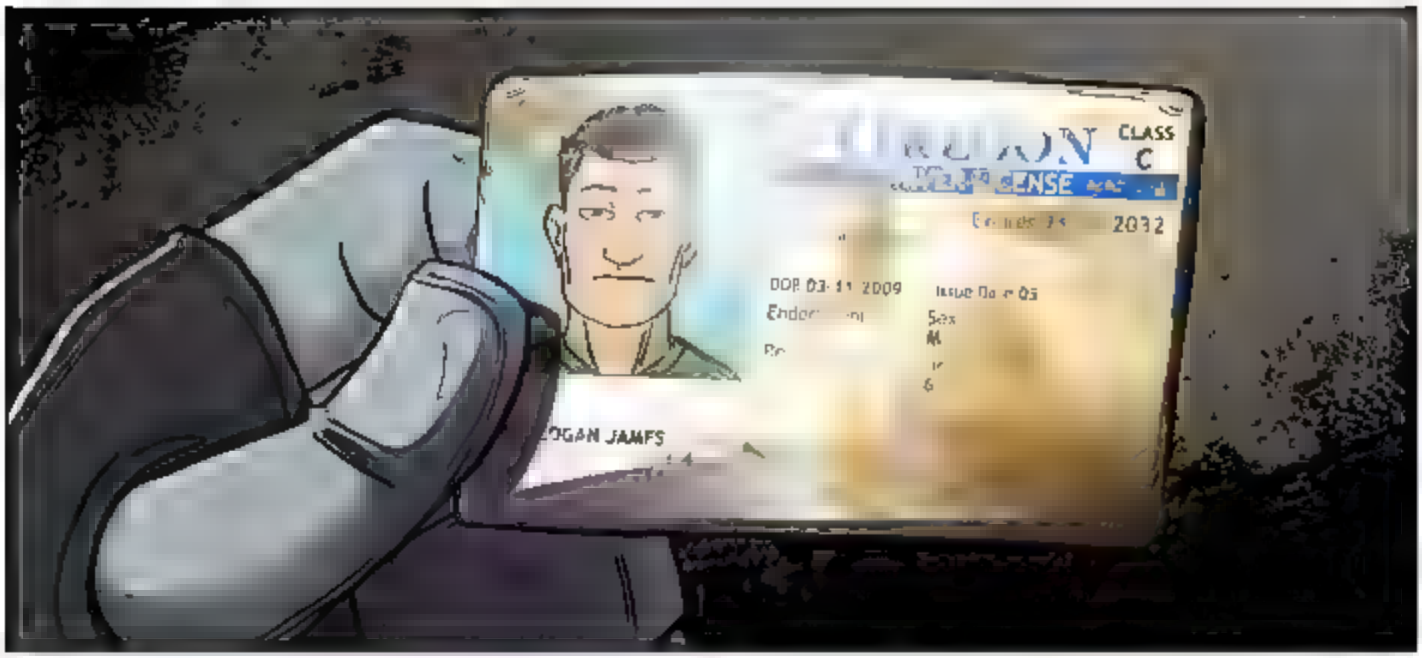
KRK
KRA
OKAY
...SO TREASURE?
I'M BETTING TREASURE.

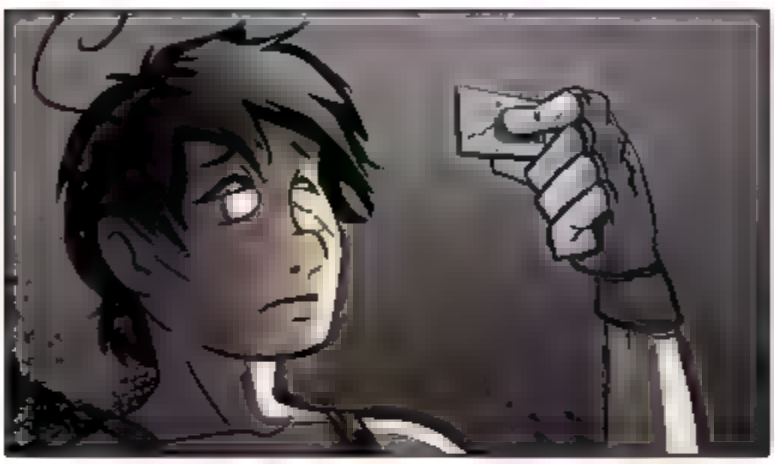









CLASS
C
2032
DOB 03 11 2009
Sex
M
LOGAN JAMES



TRAP DIDN'T DO YOU A LOT OF GOOD AGAINST THE FOG, HUH LOGAN?

WHAT WERE YOU LOOKING FOR?

SO IN THE END I BURNT IT
I MEAN, THE WHOLE CITY MOST OF THE GARGLE FLEET, TOO.
I DIDN'T... HM. DIDN'T KNOW IT WOULD BURN FOR SURE. MOSTLY WANTED TO TAKE OUT THE OIL DRILL.
..GUESS I HOPED IT WOULD, THOUGH
STILL. DON'T KNOW IF I SHOULD HAVE I KEEP WONDERING IF THERE WERE STILL SURVIVORS.
IF THERE WAS ANYTHING I COULD HAVE DONE.
DIDN'T EVEN CHECK
..I KEEP SEEING GARGOYLE SHIPS OR HEARING THEIR CALLS SINCE THEN JUST OUT THE CORNER OF MY EYE, YOU KNOW?
YOU THINK MAYBE I'M IMAGINING IT?
~Siiighh~
LOGAN J. DIAZ
2009 - ???
THANKS, LOGAN. YOU'RE A GOOD LISTENER

Ben Frater 2012

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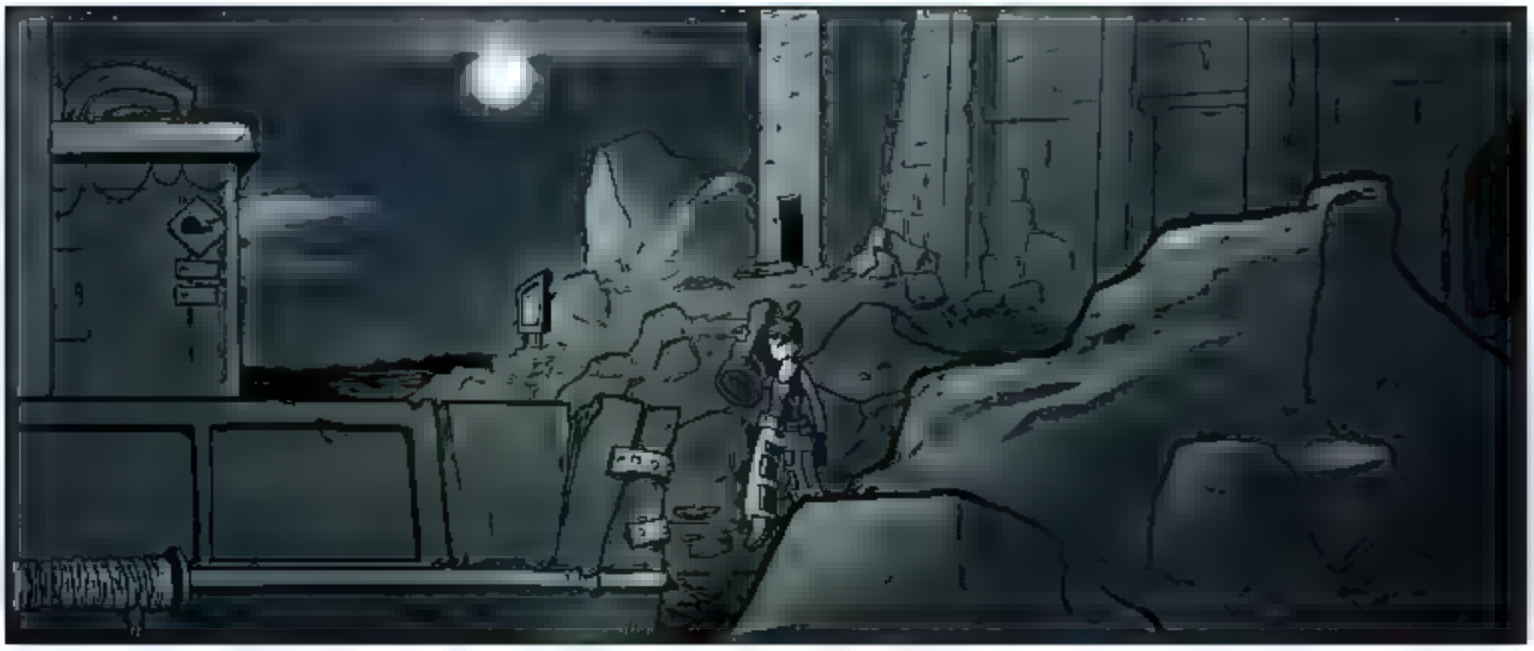
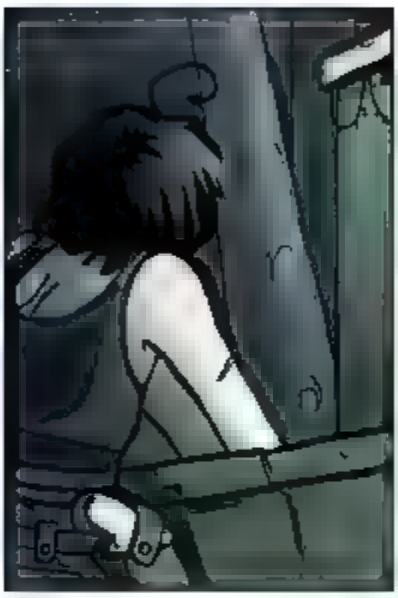
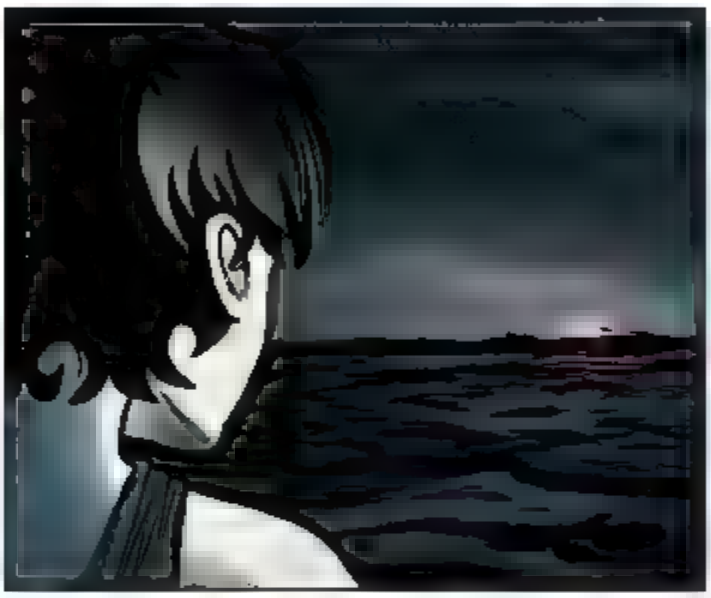
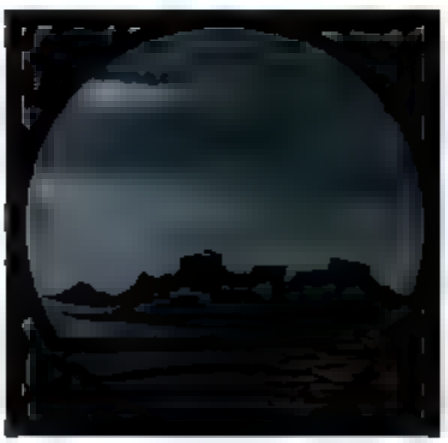
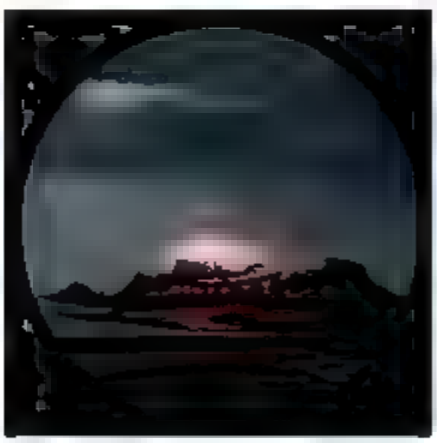


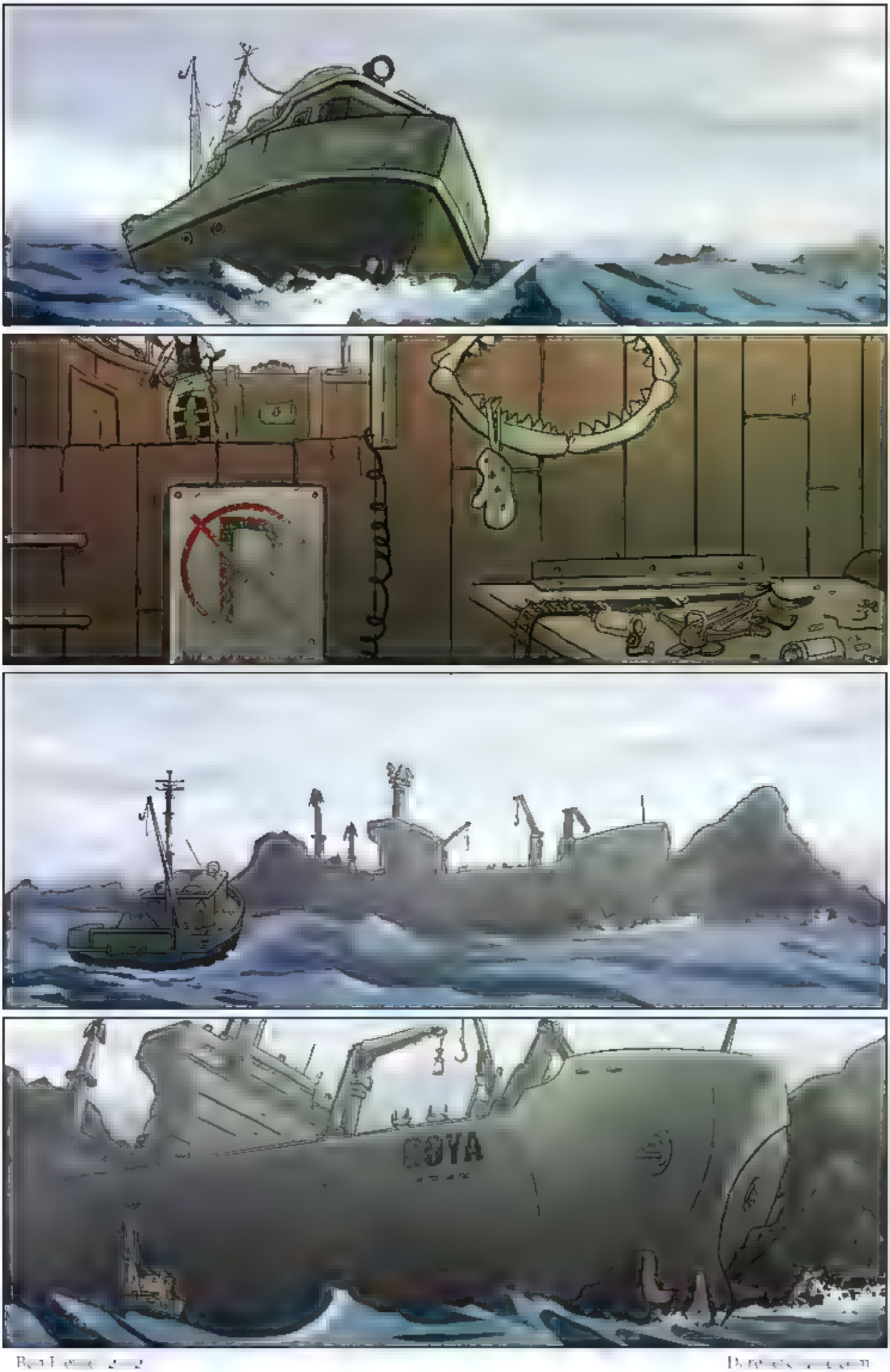








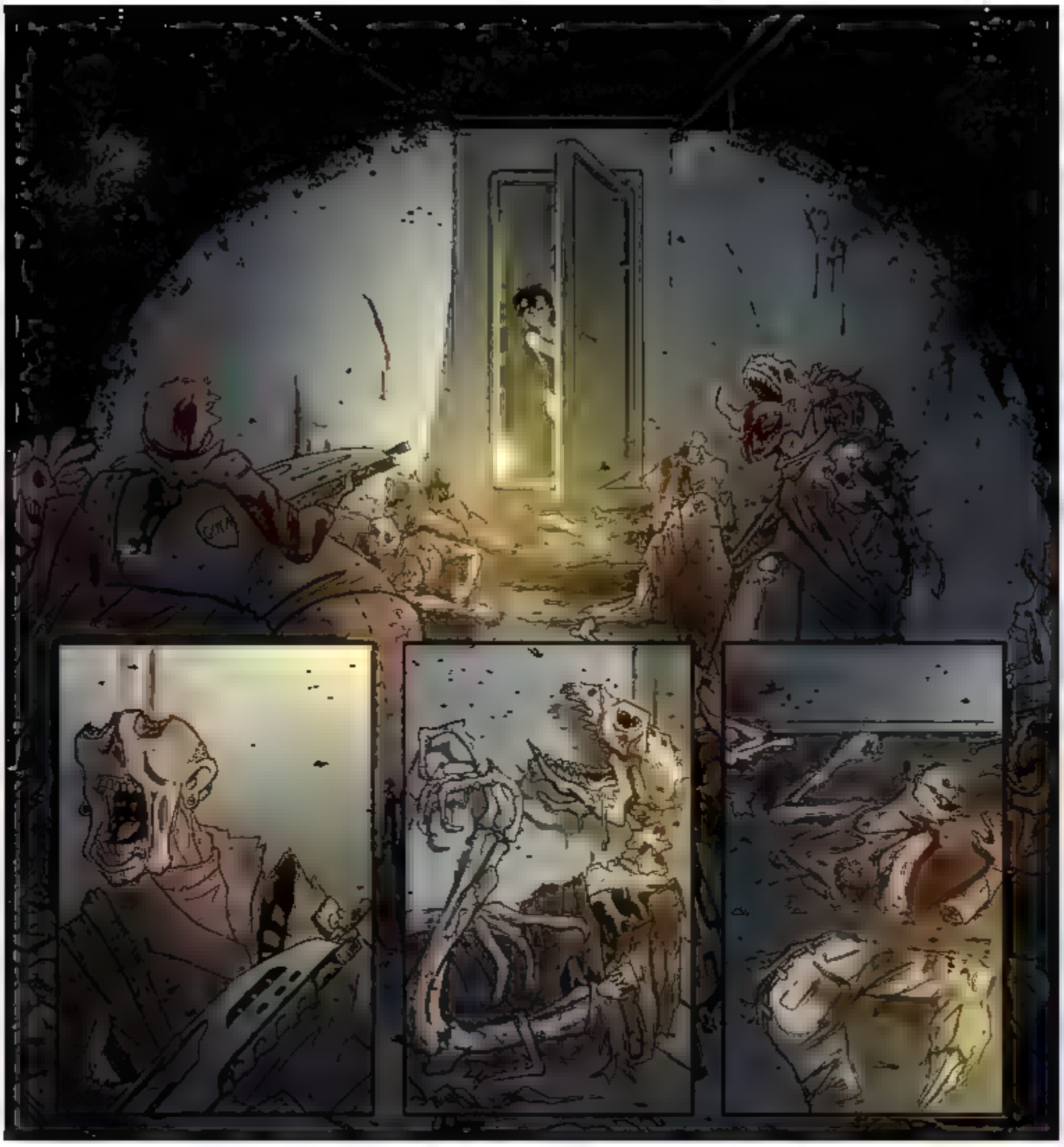
S.O.S...


GOYA

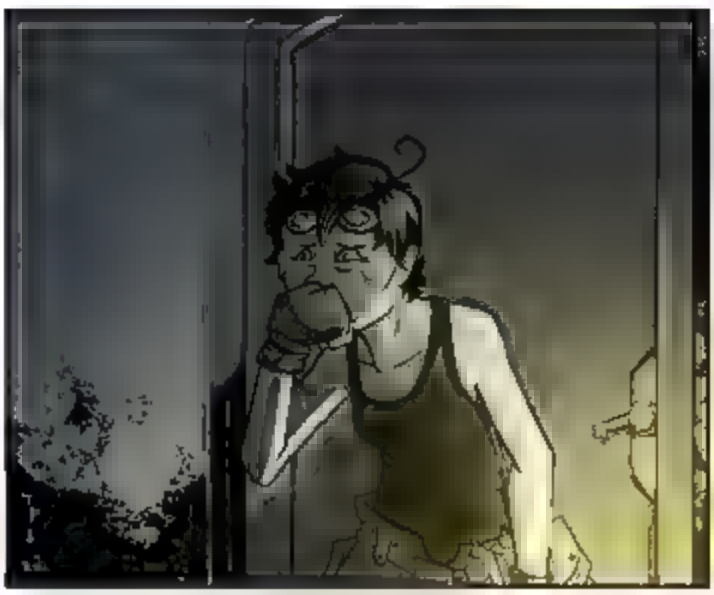
TH-THIS IS D-DANG...
UHG...
THIS IS DANG THU MAI OF THE SALVAGE SHIP PENUMBRA, RECEIVING GOYA'S S O S
GOYA, RESPOND.
YEAH.
OKAY

TNK

PIRATES...?
NO.... GARGLES?
BOTH?



SLAM



THESE ARE... THESE ARE GOOD WEAPONS.
PIRATES WOULDN'T JUST LEAVE THEM...
Skkt

OH.
OH WOW.

HOLY SHIT.

HOLY SHIT.
IT'S A TREASURE MAP.
DOWNLOADING.
CHARLIE...
AH!
THOUGH WE HAVE NOT SPOKEN SINCE I LEFT ARBUTUS, I HOPE YOU WILL HEAR ME OUT.
A FEW YEARS AGO, I JOINED THE GOYA – A GROUP OF UNAFFILIATED HUMANS AND MIASMICS DEDICATED TO THE RE-DISCOVERY AND PRESERVATION OF LOST KNOWLEDGE.
I THOUGHT THAT THESE TRAVELERS WOULD BE PERFECT FOR ME, AS IN MANY WAYS THEIRS OVERLAPPED WITH MY OWN RESEARCH
I WAS NOT WRONG.

WE TRAVELED TO WHERE THE FOG FIRST HIT – WHAT WAS ONCE GREENLAND THERE WE SPEND EIGHT MONTHS PARLAYING WITH THE LOCAL MIASMIC TRIBES, TO MANY OF WHICH HUMANS WERE JUST LEGEND.
DESPITE THEIR ISOLATION, THEIR LANGUAGE WAS THE SAME AS THOSE THAT WORKED FOR THE GOYA.
REMARKABLE, NOT TO MENTION FORTUNATE
ONE SUCH TRIBE... BID US KILL SOME SORT OF DEMON. THE CAPTAIN ACCEPTED, FULLY EXPECTING AN OVERGROWN MIASMIC, BUT WHAT WE FOUND ..
WELL, THAT'S JUST IT. I CAN'T REALLY DESCRIBE IT. IT'S LIKE NO MIASMIC OR ANIMAL I KNOW...
...AND PRESERVED IN A GREASY AMBER-LIKE SUBSTANCE

ARBUTUS WOULD SEE THIS AS BLASPHEMY, BUT PLEASE, CHARLIE, WE NEED ACCESS TO EQUIPMENT THE GOYA SIMPLY DOESN'T HAVE I HAVE SO MANY THEORIES..
I'M LOGGING THIS AND WILL SEND IT OVER NEXT TIME THE FOG IS CLEAR.
THIS "DEMON" COULD PROVE ALL WE KNOW A LIE.
AAH!
OH GOD, I- I - I'M SORRY I - I WAS RECEIVING...
I MEAN I WAS RESPONDING TO A DISTRESS SIGNAL AND I...
DAAAng TAU MAAN!

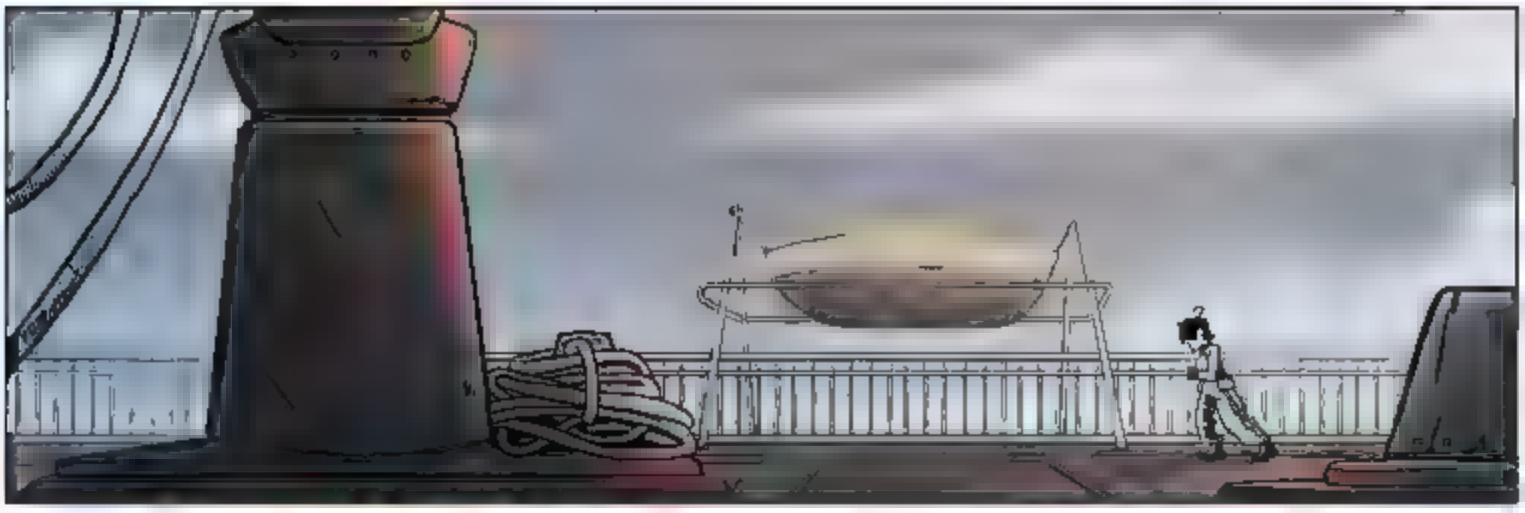
SSSSALVAGE SHIP PENUMBRA.
FOLLOWING KINDA.
CLOSE ASTERN.
HHELLO?
CLOSE ASTERN.
hello.
hello.
HELLO
BID US KILL SOME SORT OF DEMON. HELLO. HELLO. SALVAGE SHIP. PENUMBRA. HELLO.
RATATATAT

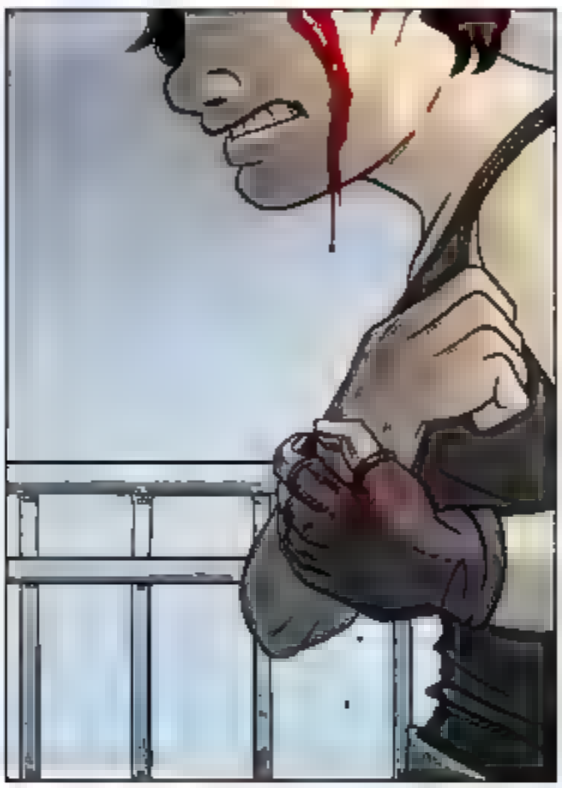
huff...
huff...
AAAAAAA...
AAAAAA

TATATA
RATATAT
WHA.
GOING TO THE MAIN

TATATATATA
TATATATATA
AH!
NO NO NO!
COME ON DON'T...
DAMNIT!
DAMNIT!
OKAY.

HGK!
KNT
AFF
KNK
AAHHAH

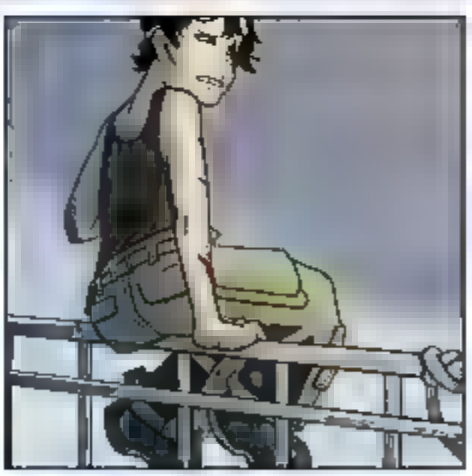




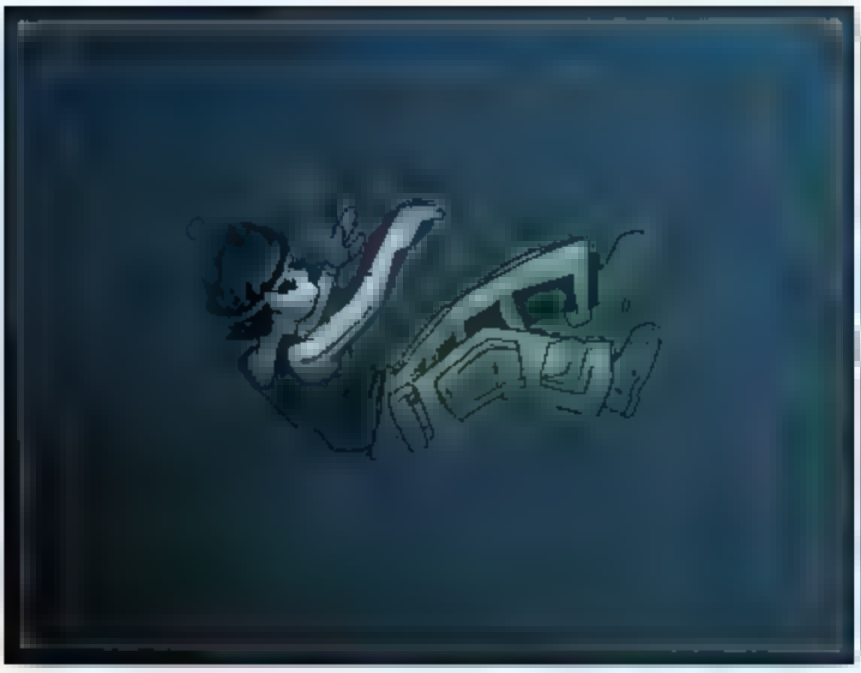
GOYA

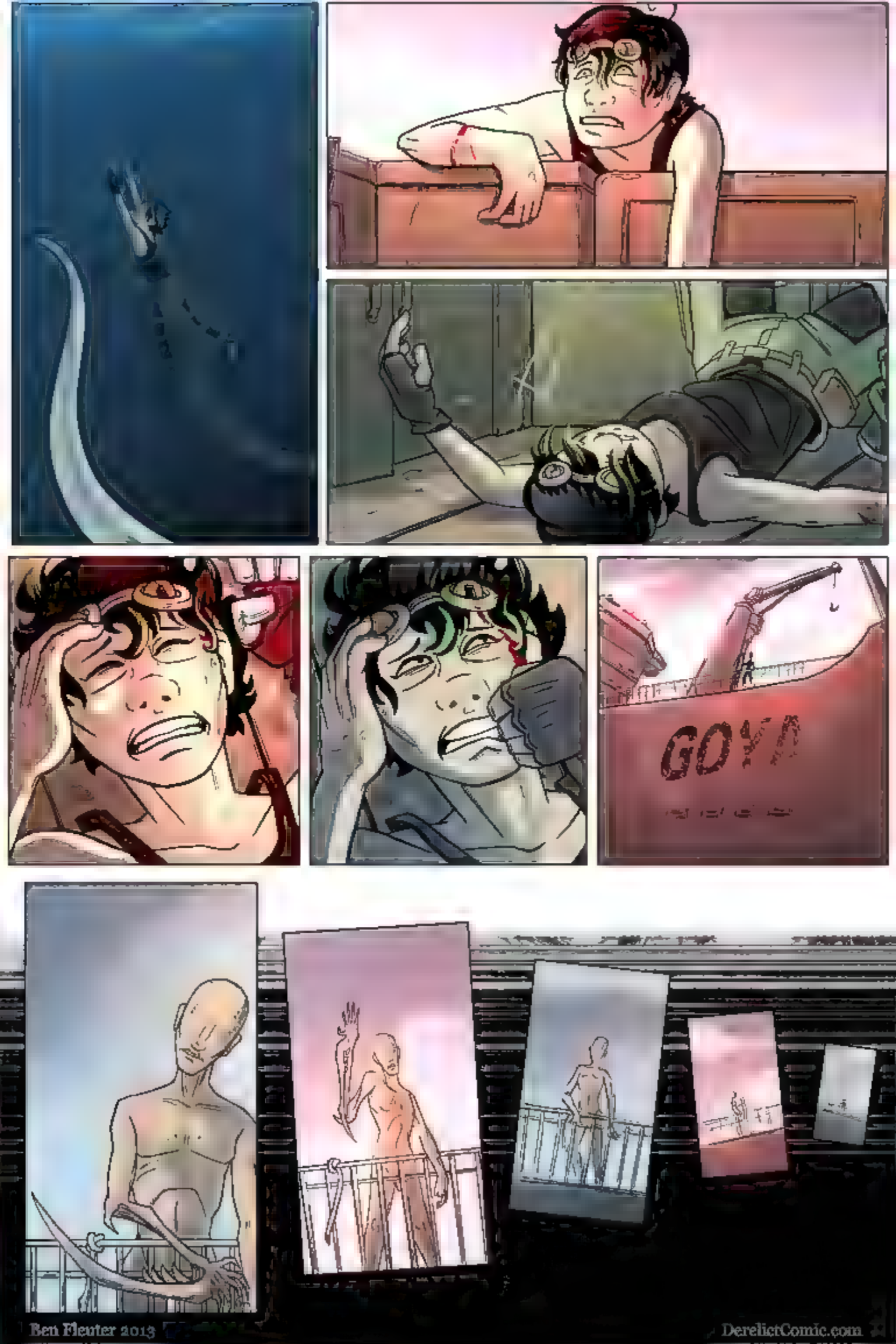
JOINED THE
WITH MUSASA

;;SSleep of
REASON JOINED
THE GOYA RE
AND LOST KNOWLE
I WAS NOT WRONG
HELLO HELLO HE
JOINED THE GOYA
GOYA GOYA



GOYA.





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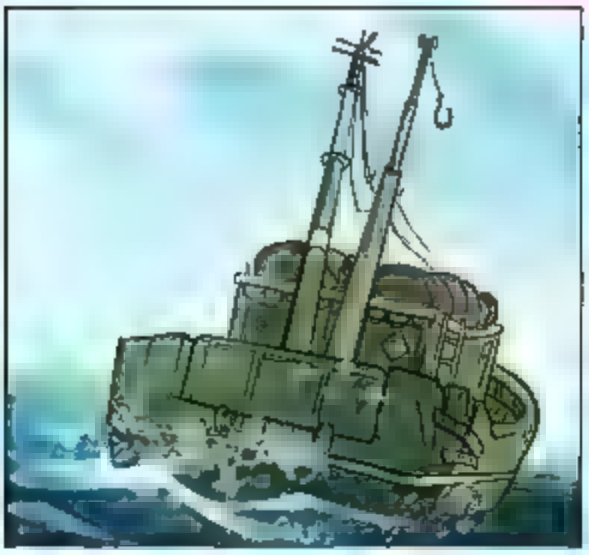
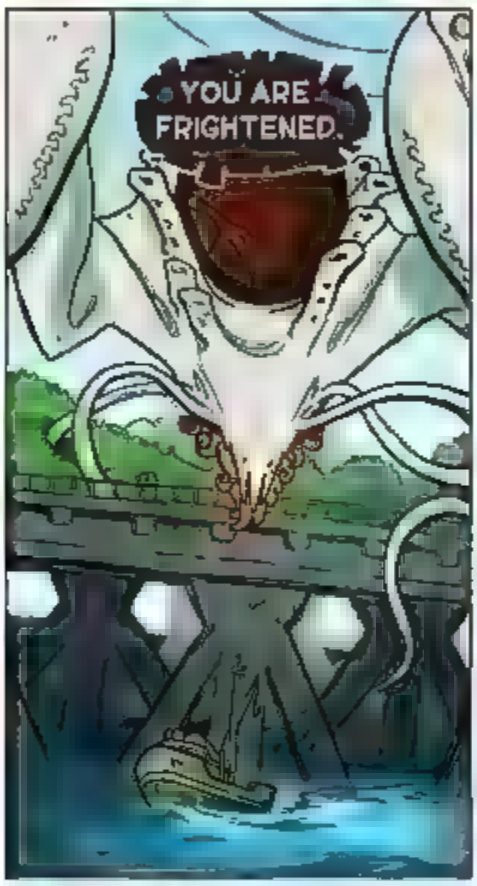
HHUH!
UH...

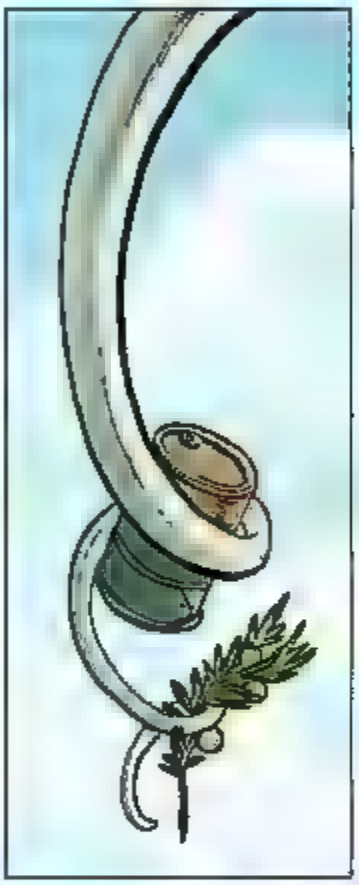
GARK
SSH
GRNM

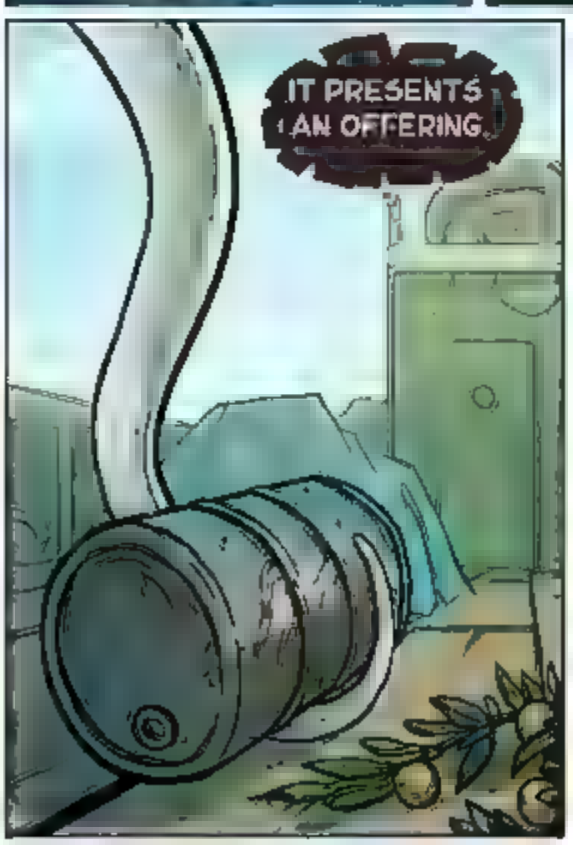
THIS ONE GREETS DANG THU MAI.
THE FIGHT OR FLIGHT INSTINCT IS INAPPLICABLE IN THIS ENCOUNTER.
SUCCESS OF EITHER RESPONSE IS IMPOSSIBLE




YOU ARE FRIGHTENED.

THIS ONE APOLOGIZES.




IT PRESENTS AN OFFERING.

YOU ARE NOT THIS ONE'S PRISONER.
YOU ARE FREE TO LEAVE.

THOUGH IF THIS ONE COULD,
..IT WOULD FIND CONVERSING PREFERABLE.
..WH.. WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHAT ARE YOU?
THIS ONE HAS LOST ITS MEANING AMONGST THE SHIFTING OF THE ROCKS AND THE BOILING OF THE SEAS.
IT HAS NO CLASSIFICATION.
IT RECALLS NO ORIGIN.

A-AND THE SUN DOESN'T... DOESN'T HURT YOU, HUH?
TO DIMINISH BENEATH THIS SUN IS A MIASMIC QUALITY AND THIS ONE.
THIS ONE IS NOT MIASMIC.
NEITHER WAS THE THING ON THE GOYA...
CORRECT. THAT WAS SOMETHING ELSE. AN INFANT CALLING OUT FOR ITS PARENT AND KIN.
THEY DID NOT ANSWER ITS CRIES.
YOU DID.

I... NO NO JUST A DISTRESS BEACON. S-STILL RUNNING FROM WHEN THAT THING SLAUGHTERED THE GOYA'S CREW.
IT SPOKE TO YOU BEFORE THAT. WHISPERING THROUGH THE MIST
THIS ONE HEARD, TOO. IT WAITED.
..AND YOU SAVED ME. DRAGGED PEN HERE
WHY'S THAT?
THIS ONE TREASURES HUMANITY.
IT WOULD SEE THE SPECIES PRESERVED.
WHAT? NO I THOUGHT YOU WERE RELATED TO THE GOYA MONSTER?
THE ASSUMPTION THAT THIS ONE IS RELATED IS CORRECT IF TANGENTIALLY.
REGARDLESS, THIS ONE SEES MORE IN THE HUMAN SPECIES THAN IN THE DOTING FLEDGLINGS OF ITS KINDRED.

HUMANITY IS SMALL.
FRAIL.
THEY HAVE BARELY EXISTED ON THE COSMIC SCALE AND THEY MEASURE THEIR GENERATIONS IN INFINITESIMAL REVOLUTIONS AROUND THE SUN RATHER THAN THROUGH THE DEATH OF STARS.
THIS ONE IS AND ALWAYS WILL BE.
YET, THIS ONE IS STAGNANT WHERE HUMANITY IS ANIMATE.
IT HAS WATCHED THEM IN THEIR FLEETING TIME. THEY HAVE INVENTED ART AND GODS AND LOVE AND WAR.
THEY HAVE LOOKED INTO THEIR OWN CELLS AND THEY HAVE EXPLORED THE STARS.
AND SO, DANG THU MAI, THIS ONE WAS HONORED TO EXTEND YOUR TRAGICALLY SHORT LIFE, SUCH AS IT COULD.
OKAY... OKAY... WILL UH... WILL YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND IF I SAY I PROBABLY WON'T BE REACHING ANY STARS OR...
OR WHATEVER...

THIS ONE WILL NOT
IT WOULD NONETHELESS ASK WHAT DANG THU MAI PLANS NEXT, WITH A BARREL OF FUEL AND A BUSHEL OF FRUIT
I DON'T KNOW... THIS RIVER..
I MEAN IT'S A LOT OF GAS, TH-THANK YOU, BUT I CAN'T GET FAR WITH JUST THAT... COULD FOLLOW THIS RIVER THEN HEAD TO UH...
TO ARBUTUS BUT...
YOU HESITATE.
N-NO. WELL... WELL YEAH I GUESS I UH.
I DON'T LIKE PEOPLE AS MUCH AS YOU I GUESS.

I UH..
...YEAH PEN'S HEAVY WITH A GOOD HAUL.
I CAN... I CAN MAKE ARBUTUS WORK.
MAYBE IT COULD BE NICE TO UH..
TO NOT BE ALONE
IF THAT IS WHAT YOU WANT, THEN THIS ONE WOULD WISH YOU SAFE TRAVELS.
FLOURISH, DANG THU MAI.

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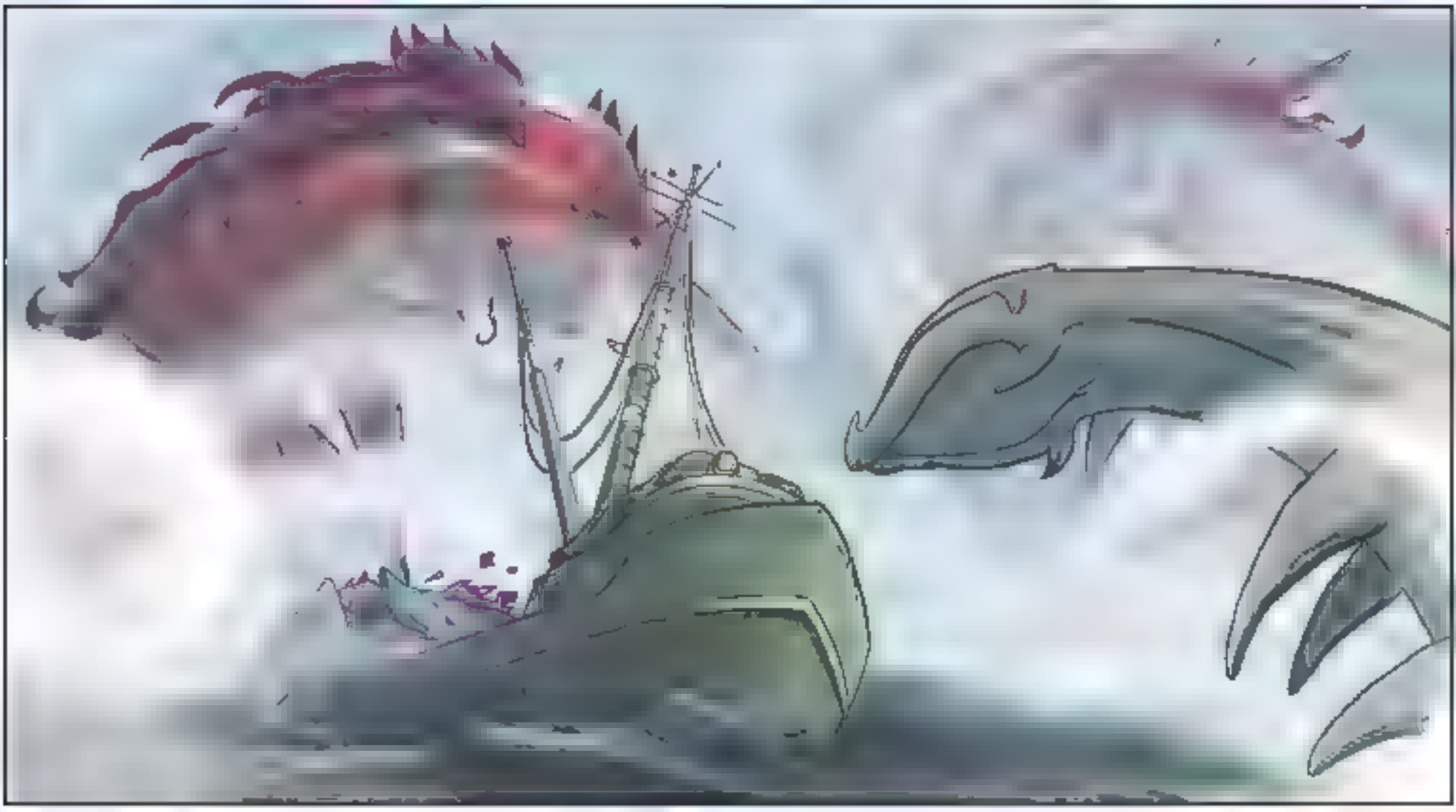
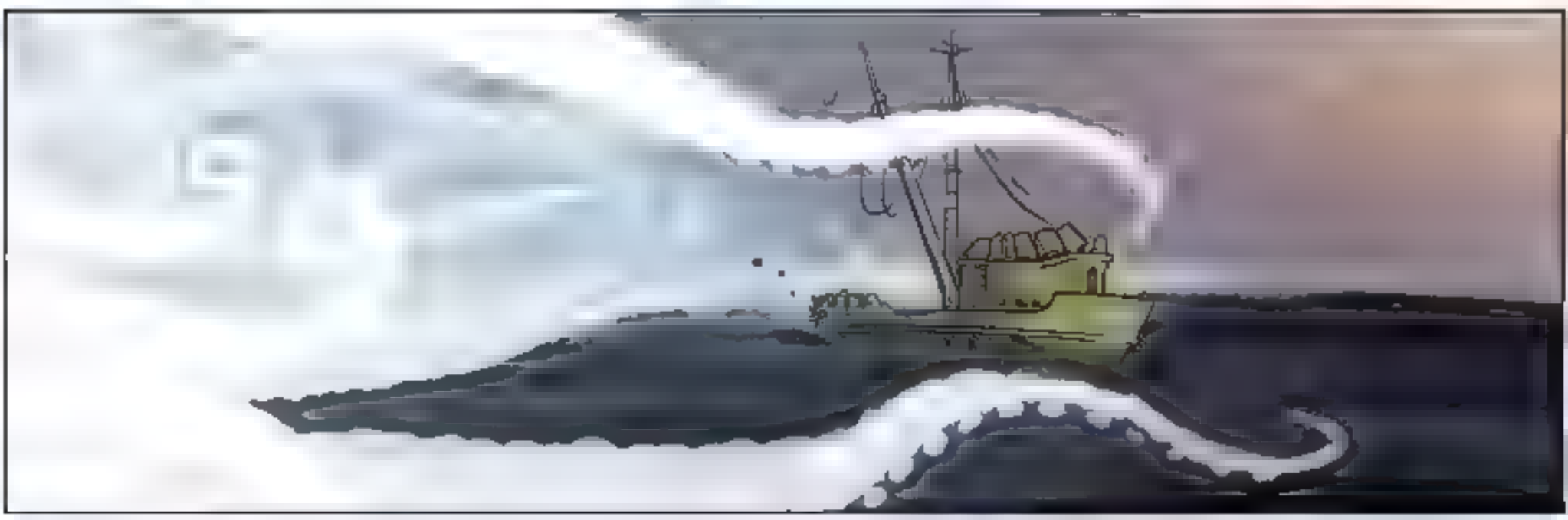
GAH!
RREEEEEEEE

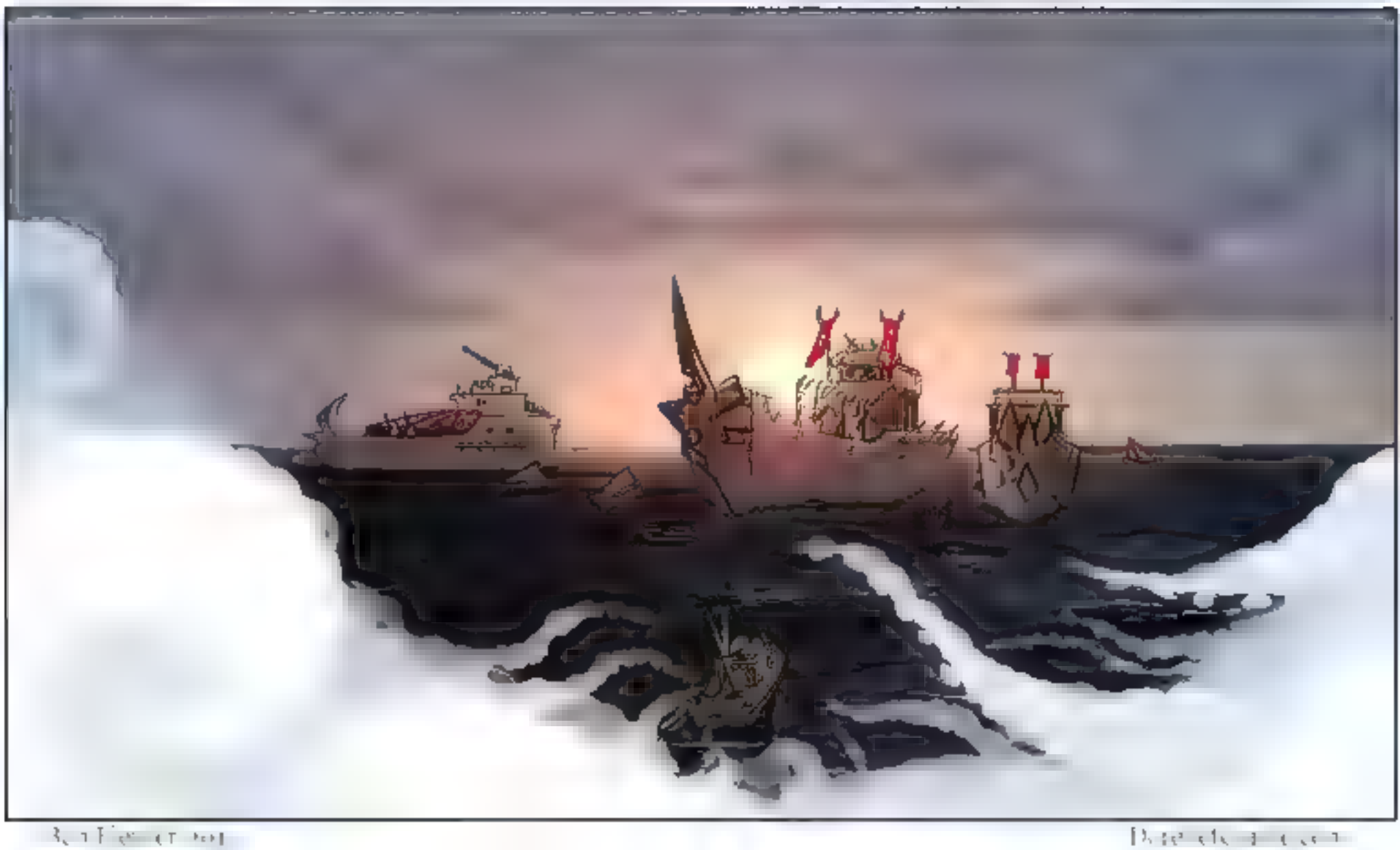
CNK
Oof!

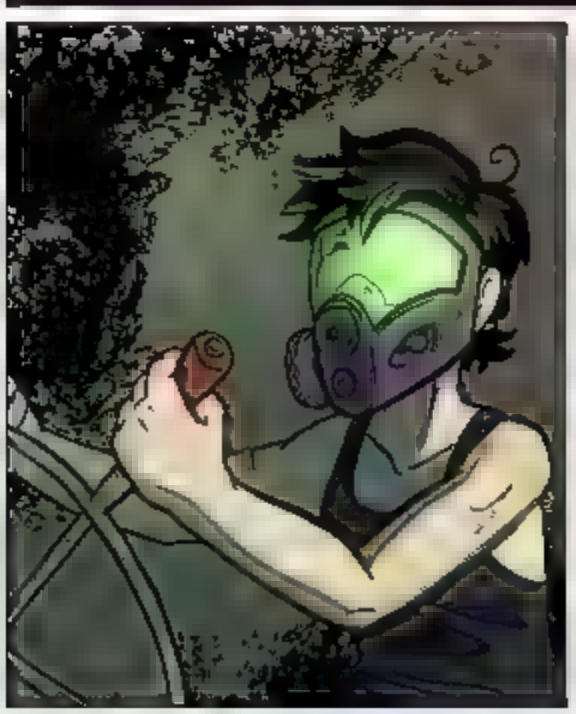
KRAK

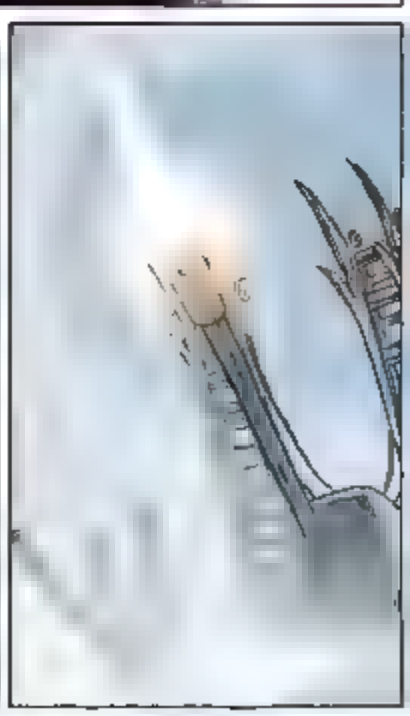
KRNG
KROOM







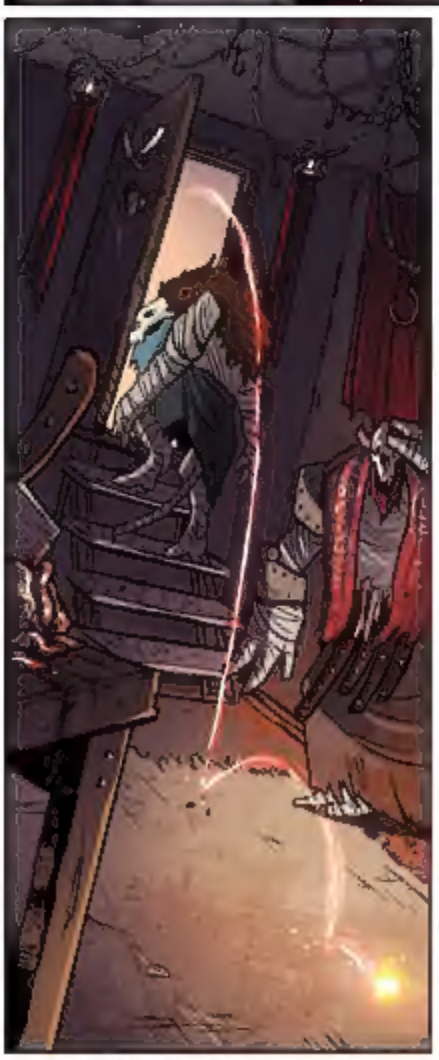




NO NO PEN YOU CAN DO IT.
COME ON... YOU CAN DO IT OLD GIRL...
PENUMBRA?

Ben Fleuter 2013

DereliectComic.com



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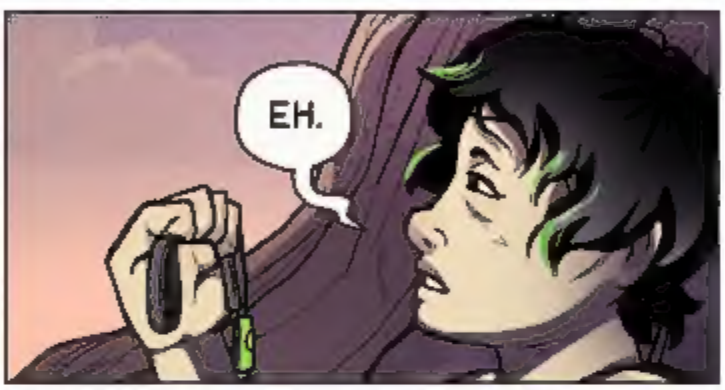

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END OF BOOK 1